



FRESHERS WEEK

A survival guide for new students
Life & Times, pages 7-9



WHAT HOPE FOR THE POOR?

Matthew Parris on the underclass
Page 14



MYSTERY OF HISTORY

DNA tests and the Wild West
Life & Times, page 4

Ministers snub 2-speed Europe

Lamont cools war of words with Germany

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

BRITAIN was still at odds with its key EC partners last night when finance ministers refused to back Norman Lamont's calls for a reform of the European exchange-rate mechanism.

At the end of an acrimonious five-hour meeting the ministers declared that they did not want to see a two-speed European economy. But it was clear that the divisions over the future of Europe were far from healed.

In an attempt to end Britain's war of words with Germany over the Government's handling of the sterling crisis and the future of the Maastricht treaty, Mr Lamont apologised to the Germans. He told a news conference: "There has been a lot of controversy. We have had our

differences and I am sorry if it has caused offence."

Earlier Germany's finance minister, Horst Koehler, launched a stinging attack on British attempts to blame Germany for the sterling crisis. He made it clear that the German government and the Bundesbank were fed up with taking the blame for the chaos in the ERM. He accused Britain of "wild accusations and scape-goating".

German officials said that press reports linking the attitude of the Bundesbank with the Nazis had been thoroughly offensive. There was also anger over remarks made by British Cabinet ministers about Germany's role in supporting the French franc only a few days after watching sterling flounder.

Britain's views. "This is not how the system is supposed to work," he said. "We're not blaming the Bundesbank like some countries I could mention. The ERM is fine for us," said an Italian official - who was nevertheless unable to say when the Italian lira would re-enter the ERM.

In a further attempt to heal divisions over the future shape of Europe, John Major flies to Paris to day for talks with President Mitterrand and an assurance that Britain would not be isolated by a Franco-German axis. He will also meet Paul Schluter, Denmark's prime minister, hoping to reach a compromise that he can present to his backbenchers.

Smith enjoys a dream start

By PHILIP WEBSTER

LABOUR yesterday gave John Smith a dream start as leader when it overwhelmingly endorsed his European policy, rejected two of his most vocal critics and elected his two closest lieutenants to the party's ruling body.

In votes declared at the end of the first day of Labour's conference in Blackpool, the left-winger Dennis Skinner and Bryan Gould, who resigned from the shadow cabinet in protest at Mr Smith's European line, were thrown off the national executive committee. Gordon Brown, the shadow chancellor, and Tony Blair, the shadow home secretary, were elected at the first attempt in a vivid demonstration of changing opinion.

The party showed its gratitude to Neil Kinnock, who topped the poll and so returns to the executive he left when he stood down as leader three months ago.

The executive elections, underlining the way Mr Smith has taken a grip on the party machine, came after a crushing victory in the debate on Europe. With Mr Smith surviving to identify Labour as the party of Europe, the conference inflicted a big defeat on the pro-referendum lobby, swinging behind Mr Smith.

Continued page 18, col 1

Smith victory, page 10
Diary, page 14

INDEX	
Births, marriages, deaths	16, 17
Crossword	18
Letters	13
Obituaries	17
Sport	30-34
Weather	18
LIFE & TIMES	
Arts	2, 3
Media	b, 11
Management	10
Concise Crossword	11
TV & radio	12



Missionaries and children among Airbus dead

35 Britons killed in Himalayan air crash

By LIN JENKINS



Andrew Wilkins, his wife Helen and their children Hannah, (back), Simeon and Naomi

A MISSIONARY couple and their three children were among up to 35 Britons on board a Pakistani Airbus 300 which crashed in the Himalayas on approach to Kathmandu airport yesterday, with the loss of all 167 people on board. Rescuers reported no trace of survivors at the crash site, ten miles south of Nepal's capital.

Flight PK268, a regular Pakistan International Airlines service from Karachi, lost contact with Kathmandu airport six minutes before landing. The crew gave no indication of any difficulties. Nageendra Prasad Ghimire, deputy airport manager, said there was no apparent explanation. "Everything was normal," he said.

Local people reported hearing a loud explosion. Those first at the scene found the wreckage in flames with debris scattered over a wide area. Rescue workers then combed off the area. Nepal radio said the bodies of victims would be handed over to relatives today.

The crash was the second in Nepal in two months. On July 31, a Thai Airways Airbus crashed, killing all 113 on board.

Among the dead Britons were Andrew Wilkins, 38, his pregnant wife Helen, 36, and their children Hannah, ten, Naomi, eight, and Simeon, six. Mr Wilkins worked on Christian relief projects. The family, who had spent three years in Nepal, were returning for another three years from the All Nations Christian College, near Ware, Hertfordshire, Britain's second-largest missionary training college. A fourth child was due in March.

Another Briton feared dead was Sharon Duhig, 28, a ski instructor, on a trip to climb to the base camp of Mount Everest. Reg Duhig, her father, of Hillingdon, Middlesex, said: "She had planned to trek for a month and then go to the base camp. It was a lifelong dream."

Mr Duhig, who works at Heathrow airport, said his daughter had been travelling with a friend whom she had met while working in Austria during the summer. It was not known if he was on the flight.

Two men working for travel firm Encounter Overland were also on the plane. Three other Britons on the flight were believed to have booked through a north London travel company Bridge the World.

Mr Wilkins, a consultant engineer and geologist, was seconded from the London-based charity Intervase, which provides about 70 personnel to the United Mission to Nepal. He

Continued on page 18, col 4

Mini-Europe on Rhine may leave Britain behind

AS European Community states rounded on Britain at yesterday's meeting of finance ministers, there were growing signs that France and Germany may be moving toward a "mini-Europe on the Rhine", leaving Britain on the sidelines.

All parties in the German coalition led by Chancellor Kohl went out of their way yesterday to underline the statement by the finance ministers and reject the concept of a "two-speed Europe", but German press reports suggested that contingency plans for a mini-monetary union centred on the mark and the franc were being drawn up by Paris and Bonn.

The Franco-German axis was further reinforced last night by the launching of the first television service to serve both countries, creating a "common television space".

The centrepiece of yesterday's broadcast was Wim Wenders' 1987 Franco-German film *Wings of Desire*.

German commentators maintained that reports of a "mini-Europe" emanated from Brussels rather than Paris or Bonn and were intended to put pressure on John Major as EC chairman to speed up the ratification of Maastricht.

Elisabeth Guigou, the French Minister for European Affairs, said France could not wait indefinitely for the UK to ratify the treaty.

Rhine mini-Europe, page 13

ON OTHER PAGES
Drugs ring smashed

More than 200 people have been held by police in five countries who believe they have smashed a vast drugs network involving Colombian traffickers and the Mafia. In London, cocaine worth £7 million was seized when two Americans were arrested near Victoria. About £1.75 million in cash was also uncovered in a lock-up garage. Page 3

Killers freed

Murderers of all races were released under President de Klerk's amnesty for political prisoners, most of them unrepentant. The 150 freed so far include a Coloured man who killed three white women when he bombed a café, a white man who shot six blacks and an Indian in the heart of Pretoria, and assassins from the ANC's armed wing. Another 400 are expected to be released. Page 12

Paras charged

Six soldiers from The Parachute Regiment are to face criminal charges arising from several days of disturbances in Coalisland, Co Tyrone after one of their colleagues was maimed by an IRA bomb. Page 2

Iliescu wins

President Iliescu of Romania looked set to retain power as early election results showed him comfortably beating Emil Constantinescu. Page 13

Irish interest rates up

IRELAND raised its key lending rates by three points yesterday in an effort to stabilise the punt, which was under severe attack from speculators amid continued rumours of a two-tier monetary system in Europe.

Albert Reynolds, the prime minister, ruled out a devaluation, insisting that Ireland wanted to be in the first division of Europe.

In Britain, expectations of a further cut in base rates sent sterling two pennings down at DM2.5103.

Defending the punt, page 19
Comment, page 23

Outrage halts celebration to honour 50th birthday of Hitler's V2 rocket

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN



Dubious honour: the German wonder weapon

THE celebrations commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of Germany's notorious V2 rocket have been called off after a barrage of criticism from the country's politicians and fierce opposition from Britain.

Many senior German politicians described the plan as tasteless and irreverent, and with relations between Britain and Germany strained over the future of Europe, the government persuaded the German Aerospace Industry Federation to abandon the celebrations.

The event was being held to mark what was billed as "man's first step into space". The V2's inventor, Werner von Braun, led the US space

programme after the second world war.

But in Britain, where the V2 spread terror and killed thousands of civilians, anger over the commemoration matched that in Germany provoked by the unveiling of the "Bomber" Harris statue. Yesterday, Bob Ogley, author of *Doodlebug and Rocket*, said the fact that the Germans had even considered celebrating the anniversary was absolutely appalling.

Werner von Braun might have been interested in space exploration, but it was he who went to Hitler and told him this was a weapon capable of destroying the British.

Over the weekend, Erich Riedl, the junior economics minister who was to be guest

of honour but who reluctantly withdrew, described the British reaction as "absurd hysteria". He was also angry at the German reaction.

Albrecht Müller, of the opposition Social Democrats, referring to the concentration camp inmates who died making the V2, said: "Considering 20,000 forced labourers were abused to death and considering the number of victims of this weapon, there is absolutely no reason to celebrate."

However, Karl Dersch, president of the aerospace federation, regretted that Germany's scientific achievements could not be honoured. "This achievement remains the foundation for worldwide space technology," he said.

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Palace and Treasury discuss cutting royal payments

By ALAN HAMILTON

BUCKINGHAM Palace and Treasury officials are examining the possibility of changes in the way the royal family is funded from the public purse, to streamline the whole apparatus of monarchy and to head off criticism of waste and unearned privilege.

Two important avenues being considered are a severe reduction in the Civil List to exclude minor members of the royal family who receive an annual grant to cover the cost of their public duties, and an annual payment by the Queen from her private resources in lieu of income tax.

Both the palace and

Downing Street refuse to discuss the issue, but it is clear that talks are still at an early and exploratory stage, with no parliamentary timetable yet set for changes, contrary to some reports.

The initiative for change has come from the Queen herself, who is in many ways more politically astute than many politicians. No current or recent Tory prime minister, nor any loyal opposition leader, would contemplate approaching the monarch with a request to pay tax or a suggestion that the regal equivalent of social security payments be reduced.

John Major is believed to have discussed the financial

question with the Queen during his audience at Balmoral earlier this month, but as before a Tory prime minister is said to have an open mind on any changes to the system. In spite of some agitation from his backbenchers, he is content to leave the initiative to the palace.

It is also clear that the Queen has not been panicked into action by this summer's torrent of bad publicity in the tabloid press about the Princess of Wales and the Duchess of York. Financing the crown, which costs the taxpayer an estimated £50 million a year, from the Civil List to repairs to the royal yacht *Britannia*, has been the subject of quiet

debate since Margaret Thatcher engineered a ten-year Civil List deal in 1990 and the palace brought in Michael Peat, a City accountant, to balance its books.

Unstitching the ten-year deal, which gives the royal family a total of £98 million over the decade, would require an Order in Council, a simple enough matter if the political climate allowed it. Earlier this year, some backbenchers expressed anger that the long-term deal was unavailable for scrutiny by the Commons public accounts committee or by Sir John Bourn, the Comptroller and Auditor-General.

Any changes in royal family funding are likely to end up

more cosmetic than real, and will satisfy some shades of public opinion rather than provide significant windfalls for the Treasury. Taxing the Queen would be a matter of immense complexity, and best estimates suggest that her personal holdings, even charged at the higher tax rate of 40 per cent, would yield little more than £1.2 million a year to the Exchequer.

Consideration is also being given to ending Civil List payments to most of the 11 members of the royal family in receipt of working expenses from the state. The Queen already repays from her private funds the allowances of the Dukes of Kent and

Gloucester and of Princess Alexandra. Removing funding from the Duke of York, Prince Edward, the Princess Royal, Princess Margaret and Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, would save about £600,000 a year.

The Prince and Princess of Wales do not figure in the calculations, as they are funded entirely from the revenues of the Duchy of Cornwall; in addition, one quarter of the duchy's annual profits are handed over to the Treasury in lieu of income tax, and equivalent to payment at the basic rate of 25 per cent. Critics point out that the prince, on his income, should be paying tax at 40 per cent.

Soldiers may be charged over Ulster shootings

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

SIX paratroops face criminal charges following disturbances involving nationalist youths in Northern Ireland after a colleague was blown up by the IRA.

A report of a police investigation into the incident at Coalisland in co. Tyrone has been sent to the Director of Public Prosecutions for Northern Ireland.

The Royal Ulster Constabulary began its inquiry after soldiers from the 3rd Battalion The Parachute Regiment allegedly went on the rampage in the strongly nationalist town.

The trouble began in May within hours of a young member of the regiment losing his legs when he stepped on an IRA mine near Cappagh, co. Tyrone.

It was alleged by councillors and local people that soon after the attack, members of 3rd Battalion burst into two bars in the centre of Coalisland, dragging people outside to beat them.

Three days after that incident, paratroops wounded three youths when they shot their way to freedom after being surrounded by an hostile crowd.

The soldiers had been searching for a machinegun seized in an earlier attack on an army patrol in the town. The commander of 3rd Infantry Brigade in Northern Ireland was moved to another post three days after the incident.

Meanwhile, a man the IRA claimed it had murdered for being a police spy was recovering in hospital yesterday after an operation to remove a bullet from his head. The IRA claimed it had "executed" the man, who lives in the Ardoyne area of north Belfast, for being an RUC special branch informer for 18 months.

But security sources said the man named in an IRA statement that included details of his alleged police handlers was under police guard in a Belfast hospital in a satisfactory condition.

A huge IRA bomb planted in the centre of Armagh was defused by the army yesterday. The bomb, packed into a van,

contained between 600 and 1,000 lbs of explosives, police said. It had been left outside the court house. Thirty homes were evacuated for several hours while the army dealt with the device by carrying out a series of controlled explosions. Nobody was injured.

Last Friday the IRA attempted to bomb the court house in Newry on the co. Down border but only part of the device went off. The building is undergoing reconstruction after an earlier bomb attack.

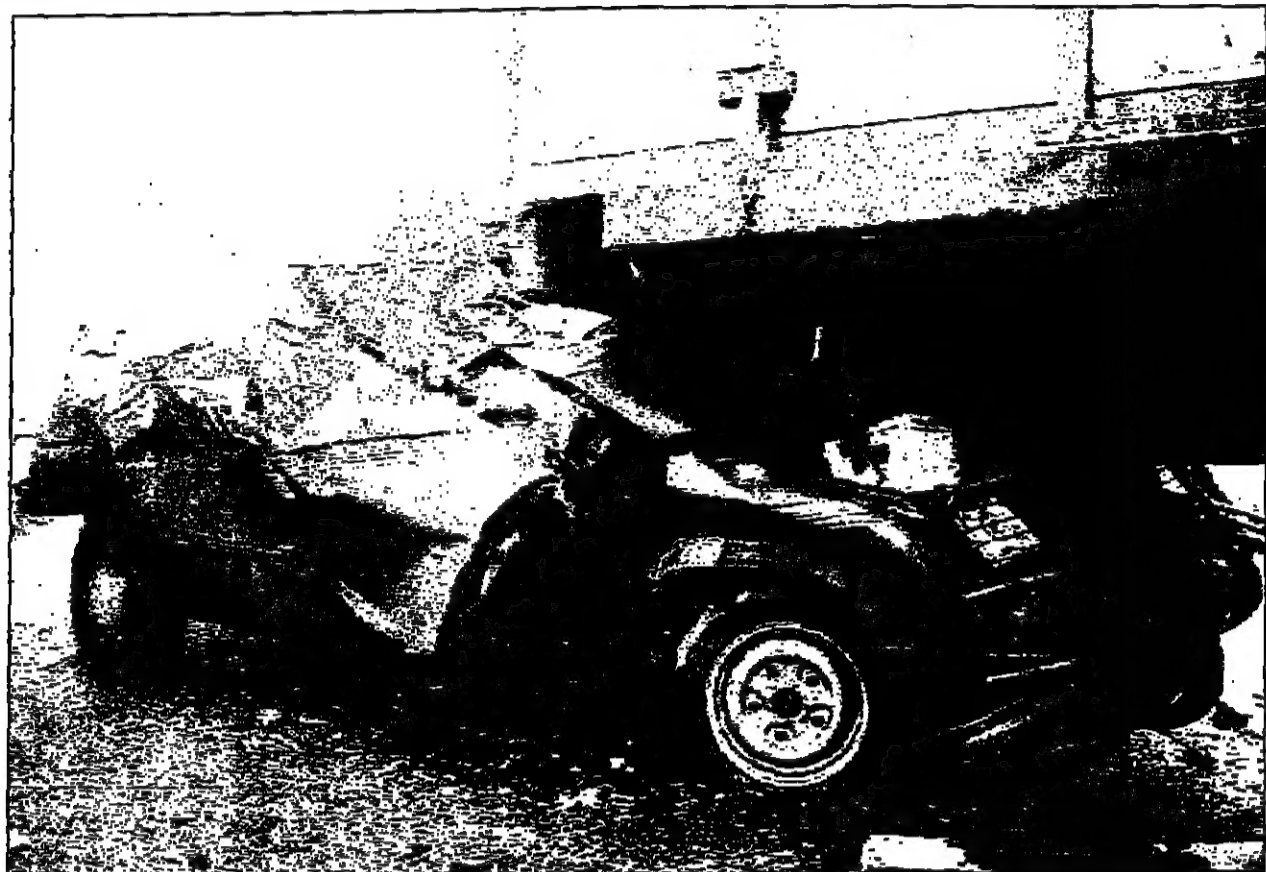
Meanwhile, an incendiary bomb attached to a five-gallon drum of petrol was made safe close to the Bank of Ireland at Glengormley on the northern outskirts of Belfast. A telephone warning had been received by the security forces who arrived on the scene to discover the bomb had failed to function properly and had only partially gone off.

Three premises at Dundonald on the eastern outskirts of the city were damaged in petrol bomb attacks during the night. A solicitor's office and a craft shop-restaurant were set alight when windows were shattered and petrol bombs thrown inside. A housing executive office in the area suffered external scorch damage in a third attack.

The soldier who lost his legs in the Cappagh blast will marry his long-time sweetheart, Alastair Hodgson, 20, a private, was blown up by a terrorist's bomb operated by remote control.

He lost one leg immediately and had the other removed in surgery. He was not expected to survive his injuries and his parents were flown to his hospital bedside in Northern Ireland. He had been in the regiment less than a year.

But he is recovering slowly from his injuries and will marry Rebecca Davis whom he met four years ago in the bank where she worked. The depth of feeling aroused by his injuries was shown when more than 2,000 soldiers took part in a fun run to raise £25,000 for him. The couple have not yet set a date for the wedding.



By PAUL WILKINSON

Fog fatality: a man was killed early yesterday as his Transit van, above, was wedged under a sheep lorry in one of two pile-ups within yards of each other on the fog-bound M18 in South Yorkshire. Twenty-three other people were injured.

A second man was killed and eight others were hurt in three other accidents in fog across the North and North East.

Police warned drivers to beware the onset of autumn driving conditions. Fifty-four vehicles, including 15 lorries, were involved in the two crashes on the M18 at Bramley, near Rotherham, South Yorkshire. Police said that visibility was down to a few yards when the unnamed driver died. They accused northbound drivers of causing the second pile-up by trying to jump rescuers at the first.

Trevor Fortune, 25, of Powburn, Northumberland, died when his Ford

Fiesta collided with a Mercedes on the A697 near Powburn. James Grieg, 66, of Barnes, southwest London, has been charged with causing death by dangerous driving.

Three people were taken to hospital in Pontefract, West Yorkshire, after a 30-vehicle crash on the M62. Five people were injured in a series of crashes on a six-mile stretch of the A19 in co. Durham. The southbound carriageway was closed for two hours.

Tebbit confirms split

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Major will leave behind him a Conservative party shaken by further rumblings over Europe when he flies to Paris tomorrow to meet President Mitterrand to gauge the likelihood of France and Germany setting up a power bloc excluding Britain.

Government officials insisted yesterday that there were no rifts in the Cabinet over the Maastricht treaty, but Lord Tebbit, the former party chairman, admitted there were divisions. He warned Mr Major that, if he pushed the Maastricht Bill through parliament, the Conservative party would be left "sore, wounded and sad".

"There are powerful voices within the Cabinet who believe that the Maastricht treaty is fatally flawed, that it was a brave effort at the time, but that things have moved on," he said on BBC Radio 4's *The World At One*.

Advising Mr Major to reject

the treaty, he said: "The prime minister once observed to me on another issue that he was a great admirer of Brer Rabbit, who, he reminded me, when he did not know which way to go, hid under the cabbage leaves until he did."

"I think that the prime minister might find the cabbage leaves useful for a short while. And, in a short while, it would become very clear that the right way to go is away from Maastricht."

His former Cabinet colleague, Lord Howe of Aberavon, retorted on the same programme that Lord Tebbit was the one living under the cabbage leaves. No party had ever had unanimity on the European issue.

"There has always been, and will always be, a minority hostile to it, but, equally, in all parties, a majority in favour," he said.

Patten defies critics

By JOHN O'LEARY AND MATTHEW D'ANCONA

JOHN Patten, the education secretary, yesterday claimed widespread support for his education white paper, as the National Union of Teachers joined critics of his plans to encourage all schools to opt out of local authority control.

Mr Patten told a CBI conference that he expected 1,500 grant-maintained schools to be operating by April 1994. Local education authorities would have a "significant but changing role to play". One authority, understood to be Hillingdon, in west London, had already asked to change its structure.

Measures in an education bill to be published in November would encourage schools to use up to 20 per cent of classroom time to specialise in technology or other subjects. They would also allow the government to take a lead in reducing surplus places in schools, making better use of resources. Some authorities

had shown themselves to be incapable of managing their building stock, contributing to a national surplus of 1.5 million places. "We should have got to grips with this problem 20 or 30 years ago," Mr Patten said. "It is never popular to close schools, but I think it is morally wrong to waste these buildings which house surplus places."

In a written response, the NUT called a white paper a "charter for political interference" that will do nothing to enhance equality of opportunity in the classroom or teaching performance.

The union argues that the proposals will increase centralisation and reduce local accountability and are "a major constitutional misjudgment". It says "permanent administrative uncertainty" will accompany the withering of the local authorities.

BBC TV faces £20m cuts to avert deficit

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

SIR Michael Checkland, the BBC director-general, yesterday ordered a £20 million cut in television department heads to come up with £20 million in savings before the financial year-end next March. "This will enable the BBC to bring its overall budget back into balance," the BBC said.

Cost-cutting will hit programme-making as well as housekeeping, premises and capital investment, a BBC statement said. However, a BBC television spokesman said programming "would be spared as far as possible".

Two weeks ago, the BBC announced 1,250 redundancies to redirect £120 million into programming over 18 months. Cuts are not expected to involve more job losses.

The accounting muddle involved duplication in allocation of programme budgets. Each departmental budget — from drama to sport — is meant to cover BBC1 and BBC2, but accountants are said to have given the money to both channel controllers.

Yesterday, it was revealed that the BBC budgeted for cuts in costs of resources, such as studios, yet to be made. Computer error has also contributed to the projected overspend.

The Times expands in two new sections

The Times is to expand its news, sports and arts coverage with a new two-section format from mid-October, Peter Stothard, the new editor, promised yesterday (Melinda Wittstock writes).

Increased use of colour and later deadlines would also help to increase *The Times*' accessibility and general appeal, said Mr Stothard, who took over from Simon Jenkins as the newspaper's editor ten days ago.

Readers will see more news reports and analysis from home and abroad. There will also be more up-to-date arts reviews and features and a new sports section in the two expanded sections.

"My first aim is that the leadership of *The Times* in politics, business, arts criticism and sports reporting should be sharpened," Mr Stothard said.

"The second ambition is that the contents of *The Times* be more accessible to those busy people whose time for reading has to be won in hard competition against other demands."

NEWS IN BRIEF

City hall blamed for £10m games loss

The profligate spending policies of Sheffield council were to blame for its £10.4 million loss on the World Student Games in July last year, a report published last night by the district auditor said. The document criticises councillors who, it says, knew the risks but failed to examine finances on behalf of the public. The auditor, Gordon Sutton, also blames Ray Gridley, the games director and city housing chief, who was brought in at short notice in an effort to salvage the event.

Mr Sutton says that Sheffield's leaders "patently failed to impose their will on the officers concerned. At no time did they have adequate financial information on which to base their decisions."

In a separate report, also published last night, Pamela Gordon, Sheffield's chief executive, said that no individual was at fault. She blamed the recession for the lack of sponsorship and the collapse of Universiade GB, the company set up to run the games, for creating confusion among potential sponsors and individuals.

The cost of the games is one of the main causes of Sheffield's financial crisis, which has produced an overall deficit this year of £7.25 million, which could rise to £40 million in 1993. In an effort to meet lower spending targets, the council last week announced 1,000 job losses.

Councils miss the mark

The standard of entries in the first Charter Mark awards for excellence in public services has been so poor that ministers have decided to award only 36 of the 50 trophies (Douglas Broom writes). At a ceremony in Whitehall today, John Major, the prime minister, will present awards to 14 local authorities and 22 public bodies. Charter Marks are the seal of approval for public bodies that meet standards set out in the citizen's charter. Mr Major is said to have been disappointed at the standard of the 296 entries. Among the winners is Wandsworth council, southwest London. Westminster council, Wandsworth's main rival as a flagship Tory council, failed to win a Charter Mark.

Breakfast show debut

Channel 4's new early morning show, *The Big Breakfast*, came under fire from television critics and advertising agencies after its debut yesterday (Melinda Wittstock writes). They said its trendiness would appeal mainly to young teenagers who were unlikely to get up early enough to watch it. Bob Geldof, a notoriously late riser, stayed up all night to attend the 7am launch. Paula Yates, his wife and a presenter, said: "If people are fast asleep while we're on, that's just fine. People are bound to keep only half an eye on us and half an eye on their kids to stop them sticking breakfast into each other's ears." Official viewing figures will be available after two weeks. Review, L&T, page 3

Malaria death ruling

The brother of the Liberal Democrat MP Simon Hughes died of natural causes, contributed to by lack of care after he contracted malaria, a coroner ruled yesterday. Richard Hughes, 57, a language teacher, died from the disease shortly after being seen by a doctor at his home in Dorchester, Dorset. He is believed to have caught malaria on honeymoon in Kenya. His widow Jocelyn, 38, told an earlier hearing that a doctor said he had "nothing more" than flu. Nigel Neville-Jones, East Dorset coroner, said he accepted that malaria was difficult to diagnose, but Mr Hughes's GP, Philip Bosworth, was aware that he had returned from Kenya and should have arranged a blood test.

3.9m jobless claim

Official unemployment figures may be underestimating the number of people out of work by more than a million, a report claims today. More than 30 changes to the way unemployment is measured have been made since 1979, reducing the official total. If the figures were compiled as they were in 1979, the official total of 2.8 million unemployed would rise to 3.9 million, the Child Poverty Action Group says. What to do about the poor, page 14

Riverbus rescue hope

Emergency funding for the Riverbus, London's ailing waterborne passenger service, will expire at midnight tomorrow (Michael Dwyer writes). The company is confident negotiations on a new rescue package will be completed and announced later today before the deadline. The future of the service was thrown into doubt when Olympia & York, the Canary Wharf developer and former principal owner of the Riverbus, went into administrative receivership in May.

Computers rejected

More than half of Britain's small businesses do not invest in personal computers, a survey by Mori, the pollsters, for IBM, the computer company, showed yesterday. Despite the personal computers revolution of the eighties, many workers still do time-consuming administrative tasks manually. Six out of ten non-user small businesses say they will never buy a PC. Only 15 per cent plan to install a computer in the next five years. Small businesses in the North are much less likely to invest in PCs than in the South, where 66 per cent use computers, nearly twice the number in the Midlands. Only 17 per cent of the public own a home computer and 78 per cent say they will not buy one in the future.

Zoo chiefs to resign

The secretary of the Zoological Society of London, Sir Barry Cross (right), and its treasurer, Peter Howell, have announced they intend to resign. The news comes as London Zoo faces a critical annual meeting tomorrow, with its future still in doubt. The meeting will consider a multi-million-pound rescue plan for the stricken facility, including proposals for a new aquarium and a cinema complex.



70 opera jobs to go

The Royal Opera House is to shed up to 70 jobs and cut the number of new productions to cope with a growing deficit, now standing at £3.6 million. Jeremy Isaacs, general director, has told Bectu, the union that represents more than half the 1,150 staff, that he has to turn the deficit into a £1 million profit in three years. Meetings are also to be held with Equity and the Musicians' Union. A wage freeze was imposed on all staff earlier this month.

Russians sail on

The Russian couple who sailed 2,000 miles from St Petersburg to Southampton in a leaking 24ft yacht are to leave the port of Warrash, Hampshire, this morning after being denied political asylum. Aleksandr and Galina Grazhdankin, from Moscow, will sail to the Canary Islands and hope to continue to the West Indies or Australia. They are ineligible for asylum here because they should have applied at Copenhagen, the first port they stopped at.

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CORRECTION

The Morris Ring of England was founded in 1934 and not, as reported on September 7, 40 years ago.

Blacks and Asians worst hit by heart disease deaths

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

THE poor health of Britain's ethnic minorities is to be targeted by the government in an attempt to reduce the number of deaths from heart disease and strokes, and the high incidence of tuberculosis and mental illness among black and Asian communities.

Deaths from heart disease are 36 per cent higher among Asian men and 46 per cent higher among Asian women than among the general population. Strokes kill 76 per cent more Afro-Caribbean men than the average and more than twice as many Afro-Caribbean women, according to the annual report of the chief medical officer, Kenneth Calman, published yesterday.

Virginia Bottomley, health secretary, said that she was arranging meetings between NHS managers and ethnic group leaders to take action.

"It is clear this section of the population does have some particular health needs," she said. "I want the NHS to be more precisely tuned in to these needs."

Dr Calman, presenting his first annual report, said that

poverty was only one factor in the poorer health of ethnic minorities. Cultural and ethnic factors also played their part. Schizophrenia is three to six times more common among Afro-Caribbeans living in England than among those in Jamaica. The report says that the illness may be triggered by stress caused by racism and unemployment.

Asians are less likely than the average to be admitted to

hospital or to consult their GPs with psychiatric illness. This may be because they are more reluctant to seek help for mental health problems, the report says.

The high rate of heart disease and strokes cannot be explained in terms of the conventional risk factors of cholesterol, smoking and high blood pressure, it says. Smoking among most ethnic groups is well below that in the white population. But the high rate of diabetes, twice that in the general population, may provide a clue. The report says there is evidence that Asians are more prone to a physiological disturbance causing insulin resistance which can lead to coronary heart disease and diabetes.

Tuberculosis is 25 times more common among Asians than the white population. Although the disease is declining, the decline has been slower among Asians. In the first six months of 1988, 40 per cent of patients notified with tuberculosis were of Asian origin.

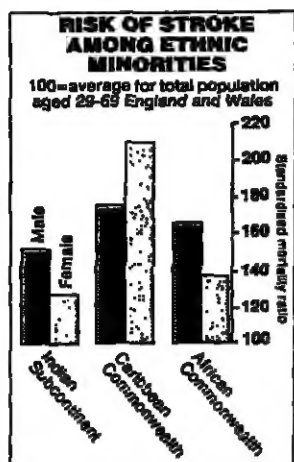
Black and Asian mothers

are at higher risk of having malformed babies. However, cot deaths are more than twice as likely to occur among the babies of UK-born mothers than among those who are Asian-born.

Dr Calman said that there was increasing recognition of the need to "eliminate discrimination within the NHS". Ethnic minorities may have missed out on services because they were inappropriate or insensitive, or not targeted properly, he said. "We need to involve ethnic communities in helping us decide what is most appropriate."

□ HIV-positive tests among homosexual men fell 10 per cent last year, the report says. The number of Aids cases among homosexual men remained stable after a sharp rise the previous year. This did not mean that the Aids epidemic was nearing its peak, Dr Calman said. Evidence of an increase in rectal gonorrhoea among men suggested that the rate of HIV transmission may still be increasing.

□ On the State of the Public Health 1991; HMSO, £14.50



Family first: Lynn Redgrave (right) and her daughter Kelly Clark, 22, began filming yesterday for "Calling the Shots", a BBC media mini-series to be shown early next year. It is the first time they have filmed together

She worries that you haven't arrived.

She thinks you were due an hour ago.



She thinks she might have the wrong day.

She worries that she can't get through to you.

But your son's still on your phone, talking team tactics with a friend.



And she wishes you hadn't turned down this free offer.

If you'd accepted our offer, she wouldn't be left listening to a lonely engaged signal.

You see, a new service called Call Waiting—available rental free for 3 months—would mean she'd hear an announcement asking her to hang on.

At the same time her favourite grandson would be interrupted by a discreet bleep letting him know that another call was trying to get through.

A couple of pushes of the phone buttons later, he'd be talking to his grandmother.

And her worries would be over.

Almost like you having two phone lines, in fact.

Call Waiting is available, using a plug and socket style tone dialling phone, if you live in an area where a digital telephone exchange has been installed. (If you are in any doubt please call us free on 0800 800 848.)

What makes it even more attractive is that if you contact us now, a three month trial of Call Waiting is yours with no rental to pay.

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BT You're more than just a number

Charity trustees 'in dark'

By RUTH GLEDHILL

ALMOST two thirds of charity trustees in England and Wales are unaware that they are trustees and could be financially liable if their organisation became bankrupt, according to a report published today by the National Council for Voluntary Organisations.

Fewer than half receive information about their organisation's role and their responsibilities as trustees, and fewer than a fifth are given training, the report, *On Trust*, says.

Tim Darrington, the council's head of management development, said: "Trustees sometimes do not recognise they are trustees because they might see themselves as committee members or as members of a board."

"If the charity went bankrupt and the trustees had not taken proper care and attention, they might find themselves financially liable. If charitable funds were being used for non-charitable purposes, they could be required to refund that money."

The council is calling for comprehensive training so that trustees may better understand the legal and financial framework in which charities operate.

Winifred Tunnin, L&T section, page 10

Brothers Roux in the soup

By ROBIN YOUNG

THE new edition of the *Good Food Guide*, published today, drops the Roux brothers' restaurants back in the soup. The Roux's Le Gavroche in Mayfair, London, and Waterside Inn at Bray in Berkshire are the only two restaurants in Britain awarded three stars by Michelin.

A couple of years ago Le Gavroche was triumphantly acquitted of having a fly-infested, unclean kitchen. Now the Waterside stands accused of serving meals that are not up to snuff for a top-rated restaurant.

Last year the Waterside, where a three-course meal can cost up to £80, was given a *Good Food Guide* rating of four out of five, described as representing "excellent cooking". This year the rating drops to 3*, which means "very good cooking", though a "particularly fine example" in that lower category. That means the restaurant is no longer included in the book's list of "top-rated restaurants", confined to those thought worthy of scores of 4 or 5.

The Waterside is run by Michel Roux, the more suave and romantic of the television cooking duo, whose books on cooking have been best-sellers. The text of the Waterside's entry in the new edition of the guide, edited by Tom Jaine, comments: "This is a restaurant that aspires to the highest, but often does not meet it."

Le Gavroche, run by Albert Roux and his son Michel junior, is among three restaurants which retain the *Guide's* top rating of five.

Leading article, page 15

Radio 4 fans threaten long wave of protest

By JULIA LLEWELLYN SMITH

RADIO 4 listeners are threatening "militant action", including a ritual destruction of television licences and an occupation of Broadcasting House, in protest at plans to eject the station from its long-wave frequency, depriving many listeners of programmes such as *The Archers* and *Woman's Hour*.

Campaigners are angry at corporation proposals to put a 24-hour news service on Radio 4's long-wave frequency. Radio 4 will then be available only on FM, which is poor or unavailable in some parts of the country. Nick MacKinnon, the campaign organiser, said: "We are planning a day of action for next week when we shall cut up our television licences and send them to Broadcasting House."

The group plans a protest march, ending with a sit-in at Broadcasting House, in central London. It is demanding the resignation of Marmaduke Hussey, chairman of the BBC's board of governors. "Mr Hussey's job is to ascertain what the public interest is," Mr MacKinnon said. "The man has failed in this matter and will fail in other matters. We want him to go, whether they take off Radio 4 or not."

Mr MacKinnon, 29, a mathematics teacher from Winchester, Hampshire,

opened hostilities in a letter read out on Radio 4's *Food-back* programme on Friday. Since then he has received nearly a thousand letters of support.

"Many are suggesting far more violent tactics than mine," he said. "It's not surprising—they are being given a life sentence by being deprived of Radio 4. They are going to have silence for the rest of their lives."

Among the complainants are several prisoners, who are not allowed to listen to FM radio in case they monitor police broadcasts. Other protesters include sailors and lorry drivers, who will be unable to pick up Radio 4 on the Continent. Campaigns have also started among more than 500,000 Radio 4 listeners in Ireland, France, Belgium, Holland, Germany and Scandinavia.

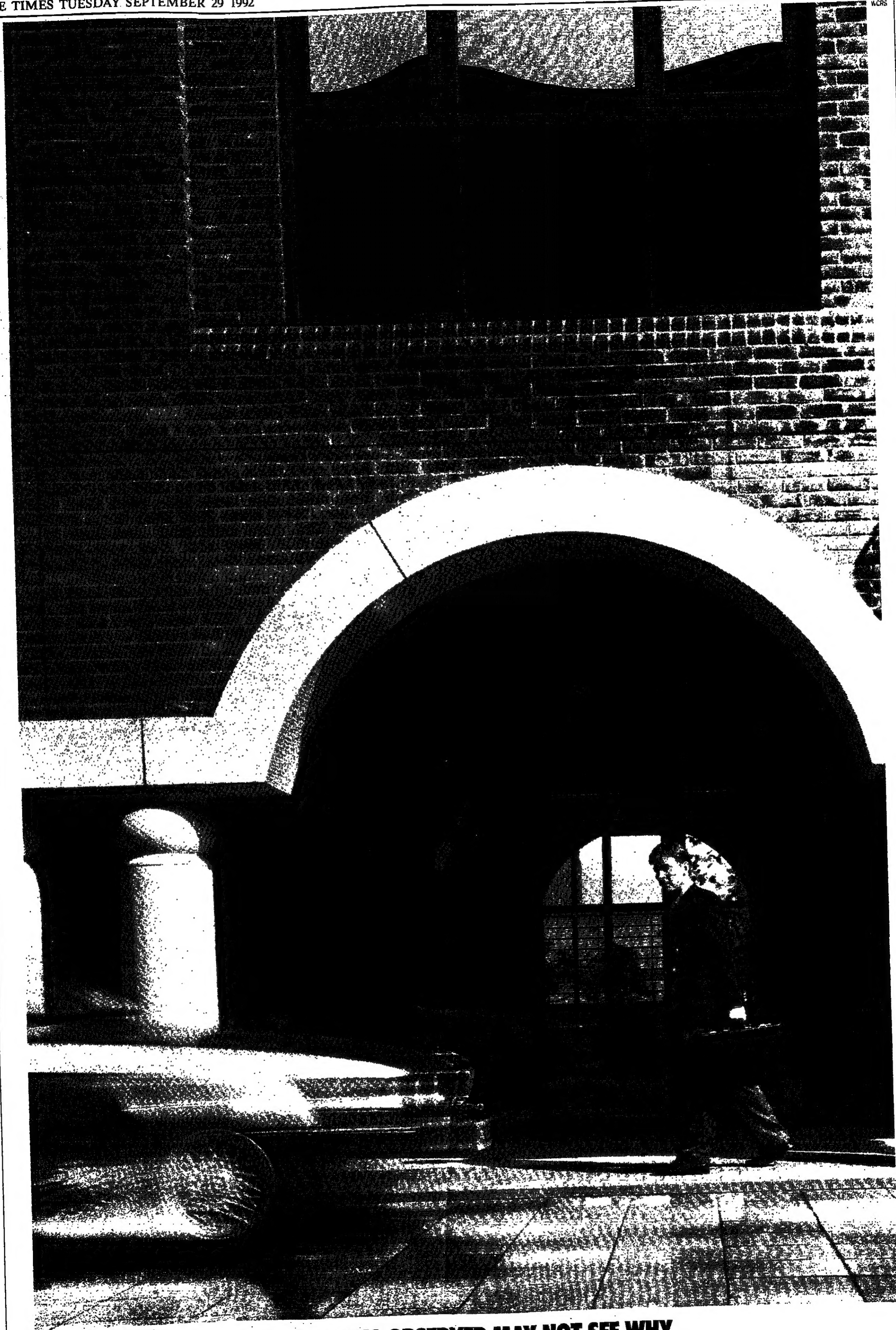
The BBC said yesterday that the decision was unlikely to be reversed. Sandra Chalmers, of Radio 4, said that fears were exaggerated. "I think most of them could pick up the service on FM if they tried. You just need to tune your set a bit more carefully."

She said that 96 per cent of Radio 4's eight million listeners could receive FM, and the figure should rise to 98 per cent by 1994. She was not sympathetic to listeners abroad: "They don't pay a licence fee."



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Lord Taylor warns new jailing rules may backfire

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Lord Chief Justice, Lord Taylor of Gosforth, will warn judges this week that unless they take steps to cut the lengths of sentences, the new provisions of the Criminal Justice Act 1991 will backfire and lead to a large increase rather than a fall in the prison population.

His advice, to be issued in a practice direction on Thursday when the act comes into force, is the clearest sign yet of the uncertainty within the criminal justice system over whether it will work.

The act creates a new statutory sentencing framework founded on the twin principles of a shift away from custody for minor offenders and longer, tougher sentences for violent and sexual offenders. The hope is that a spin-off will be a

reduction in the prison population. But judges and offenders have not known the date of release.

Under the act, it would be clear both to judges and offenders how long they must serve. Offenders may be released halfway through the sentence but would be liable to recall for the rest if they reoffended. Unless judges took into account the longer period offenders will serve and "adjust their sentences accordingly", the prison population would rise, Lord Justice Farquharson said yesterday.

"Judges must be careful not to increase the length of sentences because of these provisions," he said. "The Court of Appeal had a vital role in ensuring the purpose of the act was met. Lord Taylor's practice direction was aimed at ensuring judges had regard to the consequences of their sentencing so that 'they don't pass longer sentences, or rather that the effect of what they do has the effect of passing longer sentences under the provisions of the new act'."

Government officials have calculated that parole changes could increase the prison population by 1,400. But they are estimating a net cut in the population of 3,500 by 1995 through fewer offenders being sent to custody.

Lord Justice Farquharson, and Mr Justice Judge, who chairs the Judicial Studies Board's criminal committee, both emphasised that judges had no problems with the aims of the act: they had always tried their best to keep offenders out of custody where possible. The act further developed that philosophy, only with more "stringent" conditions. "They are very committed to it," he said. "But some judges were anxious about the wording of the act, and there could be inconsistencies in the first few months over interpretation of unclear wording. However, he said it would not mean sentencing 'chaos'."

Law Times, pages 27, 28



Farquharson: new attitude is needed

reduction in the prison population. The big question is whether judges will go along with the new principles.

Yesterday Lord Justice Farquharson, who chairs the Judicial Studies Board, said concern about the impact on the prison population was "causing greatest anxiety".

"It would be tragic if, as a result of this act, the prison population went up when the whole purpose and thrust is to reduce it, and that is what the judges' approach will be."

He said that the act required a "change in attitude". Until now, sentences have borne little relation to time served. At present, offenders with remission may be released on parole



Pets are put on the couch

Paws for thought: David Appleby, a pet behavioural counsellor, treating a patient at the Scarisdale veterinary clinic in Derby. He examines animals' backgrounds in an effort to find the root of their bad behaviour (Julia Llewellyn Smith writes).

Mr Appleby also offers free 90-minute sessions at the RSPCA's psychological clinic in Leicester, which has treated more than a hundred pets since it opened earlier this month. Mr Appleby, a visiting counsellor at the Cambridge University vet school, discusses the animals' upbringing with their owners. Cases have included a

dog that slept on its owners' bed and bit them every time they turned over, and another that prevented its owners going on holiday by howling every time it was left alone.

"It's a question of looking into the animal's history to see when the problem developed," Mr Appleby said. "For example, a cat that is spraying everywhere may be doing so because it is insecure. To cure this we would maybe make its cat flap

smaller, so it felt more secure and safe. We have to gradually rebuild its confidence."

"A dog that is allowed to sit in its owner's lap or keep a toy after play may think it is a dominant dog and has a right to be aggressive."

The RSPCA has introduced the counselling, which includes follow-up telephone advice, to save difficult animals from being put down. Difficulty with behaviour is the main

reason for dogs under two being destroyed. One in five British dogs is estimated to have behavioural difficulties.

Mr Appleby said that not all badly-brought-up dogs would show it. "You can do all the wrong things with pets and get away with it, but sometimes some will be affected. It's embarrassing if your dog misbehaves when friends come round."

The RSPCA said: "I know the thought of a dog lying on a couch, describing its dreams, sounds ridiculous, but this really is invaluable help for so many of them."

Appeal judges given training

By FRANCES GIBB AND RICHARD FORD

THE most senior judges who deal with criminal cases, those in the Court of Appeal, will have a training session this week on the new sentencing provisions of the Criminal Justice Act 1991.

The move is the last in what has been one of the biggest training exercises for the judiciary in England and Wales for any legislation.

More than 500 circuit judges, recorders and assistant recorders have each attended at least one training session on

the philosophy of the act, which creates the first statutory framework for sentencing. The key points include:

- Short-term prisoners to serve at least half sentence.
- More use of punishment in the community.
- Combination order combines probation and unpaid work in the community.
- Means-related fines.
- Unpaid fines can be deducted from social security.
- Parental responsibility: power to bind over parents to

control their children.

□ Youth Courts: juvenile court replaced, age limit raised to 18.

□ Idea that young children cannot be credible witnesses abolished. Video-taped evidence from children to be used.

□ Maximum penalty for non-domestic burglary cut from 14 years to ten.

□ Parole Board rather than home secretary to decide on release of those serving discretionary life sentences.

£220m plan unveiled for Games arena

By RONALD FAUX

PLANS for a £220 million arena for central Manchester, a key component in the city's bid to hold the Olympic Games in 2000, were published yesterday.

The project will go ahead whether or not Manchester is awarded the games and is the central feature of the Victoria station regeneration. It covers a multi-purpose indoor sports arena, seating up to 16,400, with a 46-storey "crystal" tower incorporating office accommodation and five-star hotel.

At 650ft, the tower will dominate the entrance to the city from the northeast and rank among the tallest buildings in the region. The distinctive architecture of the Victoria station will be retained in the planning application submitted by Vector Investments and the British Railways Board.

The arena has been earmarked as the venue for the Olympic gymnastic competitions but will be used for other international sport and leisure activities, including ice events, basketball and hockey. The complex will be served by British Rail and Metrolink.

'Sexist' farmers dig in

By DAVID YOUNG

AS A job description, "farmerette" has never caught on. There is no record of any pub offering farmerette lunches and folk singers never break into rousing renditions of "I am a jolly farmerette and I plough the fields all day".

However, the Irish National Ploughing Association is determined to continue using the term, which it has employed for the past 40 years to describe female farm workers, even if it has incurred the wrath of Ireland's Council for the Status of Women.

The country's biggest agricultural show has been accused of sexism for sticking to the description. The organisers of the national ploughing championships have received a formal protest from feminist organisations for continuing to classify women entrants in

an annual contest for Ireland's top ploughwoman as farmerettes. Carmel Foley, chief executive of the women's council, called the offending word "belittling, sexist, outmoded and outdated", and said that it did not reflect the role of women in farming.

The protest seems unlikely to succeed. Anna McHugh, Irish National Ploughing Association managing director, said: "We have no intention of changing the name of the competition." Who coined the word for the entry forms in the early 1950s has been long forgotten. The winner will take the title Queen of the Plough, a crystal glass trophy and £150. Until 10 years ago, she received an extra £100 on her wedding day if she married before the age of 25.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Wheelchair woman murdered

A disabled woman in a wheelchair was found battered to death in her sheltered flat at Long Lawford, Warwickshire, yesterday.

Neighbours said Rosemarie Smith, 52, had a leg in plaster and would have been unable to reach a panic alarm in the flat.

A home help found her lying in a pool of blood near her telephone.

Sex calls denied

A £40,000 a year accountant dialled 0898 sex lines on office phones and used a company credit card to buy personal items, a Chelsea industrial tribunal was told yesterday.

Brian Williams, 50, of East Molesey, Surrey, claims that Chugoku Marine Paint of Westminster made the allegations to avoid paying redundancy. He claims unfair dismissal and unpaid overtime. The hearing continues.

Case settled

A former appeal court judge, Lord Brightman, has settled a legal action he brought against Royal Hampshire County Hospital in Winchester. The dispute followed complaints he made about treatment when he was a patient.

Juice cleared

Ten cases against the supermarket chain Sainsbury's were dropped at Wells Street magistrates' court, London, yesterday. The firm had been accused of mislabelling cartons of treated orange juice as pure juice, but the agriculture ministry halted proceedings when a similar case failed.

1,000 helpers

Nearly 1,000 people have contacted police hunting the man who raped an eight-year-old girl near Basildon, Essex, last week. Police said they were following up all information and hoped soon to issue a photo-fit picture of the attacker.

Trout taken

Barbed wire fences and security guards failed to halt poachers who took 8,000 trout from fish farms at Wansford, Humberside.

Toy siege

Police wearing bullet proof vests mounted an armed siege after a 14-year-old boy chased his mother with a toy pistol yesterday. Neighbours at Chippingham, Wiltshire, failed to recognise Frankie Cavacutti and police feared he was a real gunman.

Hunger strike

Women inmates at Bullwood Hall open prison in Hockley, Essex, have started a hunger strike over conditions. The Home Office confirmed that 28 refused to eat breakfast yesterday.

Rider fined

International three-day event rider Mark Todd, who runs Andrew Lloyd Webber's equestrian centre at Watership Down, was fined £100 at Andover, Hampshire, yesterday for driving a horsebox with an insecure load. He pleaded guilty.

Knife rape

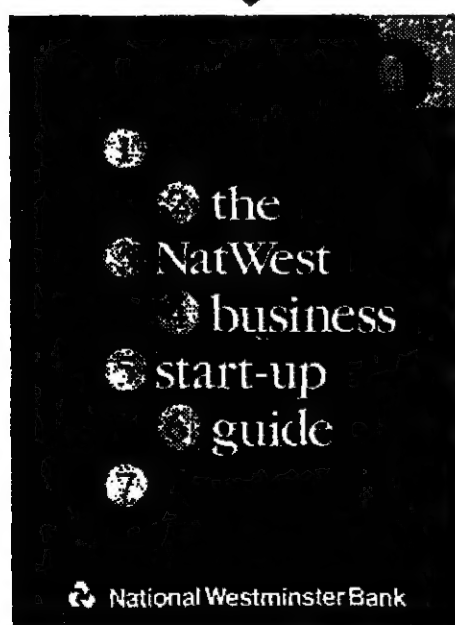
A 31-year-old woman was raped at knife point in a car after she hitched a ride in east London early yesterday.

Cemetery attack

Five skinheads attacked a 20-year-old woman in a graveyard at Darlington, co. Durham, at the weekend.

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A sentence from 'Autocar & Motor' will perhaps explain why BMW have moved on from what is arguably the world's best 6 cylinder engine.

BMW's new 8 cylinder, they forecast, "stands every chance of being one of the greatest engines of its time".

The journalists have an advantage over you: they've driven both the 8 cylinder 730i and the 8 cylinder 740i.

The principle of both engines is the same: the extra cylinders provide even more power in the velvet glove that has become the 7 Series' signature.

The 4.0 litre 8 cylinder, for example, has 80% of its very considerable torque at a lowly 2000 rpm. So your right foot doesn't actually travel very far to release the power (peaking at 286bhp).

So much so, that the engine is electronically restrained so you won't exceed 149 mph on the Autobahn. (If you overshoot to Poland you'll find the engine so adaptable that it lets you drive on whatever octane brew is offered in Cracow.)

THE ULTIMATE...

The advanced electronics are just one of the features that has engine experts gazing in awe at what's under the bonnet.

The conrods, for example, are made in a revolutionary new way, by *baking* metal powder instead of merely melting metal, that is so precise they don't even need balancing.

Precision, too, comes from the individual microphones that listen in to the combustion in each cylinder. This means the engine can run on as lean a mixture as possible, explaining how the more powerful 3.0 litre 8 cylinder engine actually uses less petrol than the frugal 6 cylinder version.

Ingenuity doesn't cease when you take the wheel. The computer controlled 5 speed gear-box can actually adapt to your driving style. You can even order double glazed windows that shrink wind noise to a passing whir. Or BMW's Parking Distance Control whose radar warns you if you are about to reverse into a hidden bollard.

...DRIVING MACHINES.

For all these refinements, both new models remain serious driving machines. The power is there to be used and enjoyed (responsibly, of course). The road feel is to be relished, this isn't one of those limousines that makes you feel you're steering a boat.

Try one, or both. You'll probably share the opinion of Germany's leading car magazine, 'Auto motor und sport'. They compared the 740i with three older V8 powered cars. The Mercedes 400SE, the Audi V8 4.2 and the Lexus LS400.

They discovered that all these fine cars have just been overtaken by a brilliant new engine.

Even a casual observer would notice the difference.



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and Mike Oxlade, 47, Knight

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Gould jumps after five years of being pushed to shadow cabinet margins



Gould: found it hard to keep doubts to himself

Labour's pre-conference national executive meeting on Sunday ended uncomfortably early for Bryan Gould. Rather than dragging on as usual well into the afternoon, it broke up at about 1pm, two hours before Mr Gould was due to appear at a Winter Gardens fringe meeting.

Mr Gould had written his resignation speech the day before and had intended to go straight from the NEC to the meeting and announce that he was leaving the shadow cabinet. Out of courtesy he had planned to tell John Smith as he left the NEC.

The hiatus left him with a dilemma. From the moment he decided to go last Wednesday, Mr Gould was determined to resign on his own terms. Telling Mr Smith at 1pm would have meant the news getting out before Mr Gould was ready. He wanted to jump, not to be pushed.

Mr Smith casually approached Mr Gould at the end of the NEC meeting and asked about his speaking intentions. "I'm not

Philip Webster and Peter Riddell trace the decline and fall of Bryan Gould, from a high point after the 1987 election

going to have to sack you, am I Bryan?" he asked. Feeling rather embarrassed Mr Gould replied: "No, you won't have to sack me."

It was the truth, but Mr Gould did not feel good about withholding the whole story. Tony Benn guessed what was in the air when Mr Gould told him he would soon have something of "personal significance" to say.

Mr Gould went to his hotel room, wrote a letter to Mr Smith, and came down to the foyer to post it as he left for the Winter Gardens. A few eagle eyes had seen the envelope, the word inevitably reached Mr Smith. As Mr Gould prepared to speak, a Smith aide, Mike Elrick, appeared with his reply. By the time Mr Gould got to his feet the news had broken.

The possibility of resignation had

been at the back of Mr Gould's mind since July's leadership election, when his objections to Labour's economic and European policies were laid bare. Tenaciously independent, he was always going to find it hard to keep his doubts to himself. The prospect may have been behind his decision to turn down Mr Smith's offer of the education and health portfolios after the shadow cabinet elections.

Mr Gould hoped he might be accommodated at last Wednesday's meetings of the national executive and shadow cabinet, after which Mr Smith had said he would insist on collective responsibility. It could have been a face-saver: a referendum did not appear to be ruled out for all time. Unfortunately for Mr Gould, at the

NEC his allies moved an amendment stating that the "door should be left open" for a British referendum. It was crushed, leaving Mr Gould without a figleaf.

The die was cast for Mr Gould at the lengthy shadow cabinet discussion which followed. Mr Gould was by no means on his own. David Blunkett, Michael Meacher, Jack Straw, Chris Smith and Doug Hoyle, chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party, joined him in the camp wanting to keep a referendum option. Derek Foster, the chief whip, is also reported to have spoken of its attractions. But at the end Mr Smith was able to point to a big majority in his favour.

After that Mr Gould's mind was made up. He rejected the course taken by Tony Benn of remaining in the cabinet and shadow cabinet during the 1970s and early 1980s but feeling free to air his own differences.

Mr Gould did not go immediately since he did not want to disrupt Mr Smith's Commons debut. The resignation ended a five-year per-

iod that saw Mr Gould gradually pushed to the margins within a Labour machine that found his divergence hard to stomach.

It had all seemed so different in 1987. Mr Gould had been campaigns co-ordinator during the general election. Labour MPs rewarded him by electing him top of the poll in the shadow cabinet elections that autumn. Mr Gould immediately asked Neil Kinnock for the job of shadow chancellor, then held by Roy Hattersley. The other candidate was John Smith. Mr Hattersley, the deputy leader, wanted to hand over to Mr Smith and not Mr Gould.

Mr Kinnock gave Mr Smith the shadow chancellor's job and made Mr Gould shadow trade and industry secretary, putting him in charge of the most important of the seven policy review groups, with a wide-ranging brief across industrial and economic policy.

It was during the preparation of his group's paper that things began to go wrong. John (now Lord)

Eatwell, Mr Kinnock's economics adviser, became unhappy with the anti-ERM tone of the document. Mr Gould had devised tough conditions for Britain's entry but, as he alleged in his resignation speech, they were surreptitiously abandoned.

In April, Mr Gould decided to put his alternative platform to the test in the leadership election. Mr Kinnock, who had decided to go immediately after the election defeat, wanted a proper election and was furious at newspaper reports on the Sunday after April 9 of a union "stitch-up for Smith". He telephoned Mr Gould on the Sunday evening to tell him that he was resigning. While not taking the call as an endorsement, Mr Gould felt that he was at least being encouraged to stand.

He did so with enthusiasm, standing for the leadership and deputy leadership. It was his pro-evaluation line, making it difficult for him ever to work for Mr Smith, that did for him then — and finally did for him this week.

Victory for Smith as delegates reject vote on Maastricht

By NICHOLAS WOOD AND ARTHUR LEATHLEY

EUROPE

THE Labour conference yesterday crowned John Smith's pro-European quest by emphatically rejecting demands for a referendum on the Maastricht blueprint for economic and political union.

Only 24 hours after Bryan Gould resigned from the shadow cabinet in protest at the new leader's refusal to countenance a plebiscite, delegates enhanced Mr Smith's authority and highlighted Mr Gould's isolation by swinging overwhelmingly behind their new leader's support for the treaty and the European exchange rate mechanism.

The scale of the defeat for the pro-referendum lobby inside the Labour party cast doubt on Mr Gould's claims earlier in the day that he had the support of up to eight members of the shadow cabinet and 100 Labour MPs. Mr Smith was said to regard the

outcome as a "staggering success" and as a "humiliation" for his opponents. It was the culmination of a strategy that has already seen the national executive committee and the shadow cabinet falling into line behind Mr Smith's decision not to allow the sterling crisis to deflect Labour from its European goals.

Mr Gould said later that the conference had made a "great mistake", but vowed to continue his campaign to put the issues squarely before the public.

The vote followed a surprisingly subdued debate in which only Tony Benn, the veteran left-winger and former cabinet minister, roused the hall with an impassioned plea for "the biggest constitutional change this century" to be put to the

country. With Mr Gould looking on silently from the platform, Mr Benn said that the treaty transferred ancient, hard-won freedoms from the electors to commissioners and bureaucrats.

With the big unions lining up behind Mr Smith's support for the treaty, Mr Benn was rewarded with more cheers than votes. Delegates backed a concerted attempt by the platform, led by Gerald Kaufman, the former foreign affairs spokesman, to crush the rebels. Mr Kaufman said that Maastricht was the Tories' problem and that the conference should not turn it into Labour's problem. A referendum would be a diversion playing into the hands of the government.

Supporters of a referendum argued that the British people should not be denied a right exercised by the Danes, the French and the Irish. A gulf was opening up between Europe's leaders and its peoples and a failure to hold a public debate and dispel ignorance about the treaty risked bringing the political system into disrepute. A vote in the Commons would be controlled by the whips.

Opponents of a plebiscite argued that it would plunge the party into a war that it would lose. The terms of a referendum would be set by the prime minister and the ensuing debate would inflame nationalist passions at home. A "no" result would damage the interests of other European socialist parties.

Glyn Ford, leader of the Labour MEPs, said: "The last time we went around this track almost 20 years ago we were told it would be a healing process. Yet the scars are still there." A rejection of the Maastricht treaty would have the Tories tabloid "delirious with joy and boost the racist, nationalists and xenophobes". A "yes" vote would be seen as an endorsement of Mr Major's "narrow, partial, part-time vision of Europe".

Malcolm Crane, from Bolsover, pressed delegates to support an emergency motion calling for a referendum, accusing the government of misleading the public when Britain joined the ERM two years ago. "They had people believing we would have money pouring out of our ears." He said that some in the Labour party had jumped on the Conservative ERM bandwagon in an effort to become more "Tory than the Tories".

Labour should not allow the treaty to be ratified unless it had been renegotiated "to remove the economics of mass unemployment and weakening of trade unions." He said that John Smith and Scottish Labour MPs had backed a referendum on devolution for Scotland. "If it's good enough for Scotland, it's good enough for us all."



Benn: earned more cheers than votes



Labour legacy: Neil Kinnock listens intently to yesterday's debate, which left his successor firmly in charge

Election favours new generation

By PETER RIDDELL, POLITICAL EDITOR

NEC

presents an austere image of the Scottish prophet prophesying doom as he delivers rapid-fire speeches in his deep voice. In private, he is witty and more subtle. Mr Blair is more a politician on the television age, generally smiling and appearing as the reasonable, human face of the Labour party.

Their friendship developed after they first entered the

Commons at the 1983 general election. Both, on the soft or Tribune left, recoiled from the excesses of Bennism and were willing supporters of Neil Kinnock's attempts to modernise the party.

One of their first parliamentary experiences was serving under Mr Smith on the party's team on the committee stage of a further instalment of the Tories' trade union legislation. This began close links between the two and Mr Smith.

Messrs Brown and Blair

then gradually ascended the ladder as junior spokesmen, impressing by their assiduity and their ability to pick issues which attracted media interest. Mr Brown was elected to the shadow cabinet in 1987, followed a year later by Mr Blair.

Mr Brown and Mr Blair concentrated on economic issues and, as trade and industry and employment spokesmen respectively from 1989 until this summer, they played a large part in the far-reaching changes in the party's policies of that period, notably the shift in attitudes on public ownership and in relations with the trade unions. They also proved to effective performers on television, arousing the envy of some of their colleagues.

After the April election defeat, they jointly decided to back Mr Smith in the party's leadership election and, although some of their friends hoped one might stand for deputy, they were persuaded by him that Margaret Beckett should be a candidate. They were closely involved in pushing for a mass membership party and for the new theme of Labour as the defender of vested interests. They have also helped Mr Smith this month in sticking to his pro-EC line and resisting calls for a referendum.

Yesterday's success in the national executive elections means that they are now not just Mr Smith's closest allies but also the leading candidates to succeed him. So far they have avoided competing against each other, but they may at some stage have to decide which of them stands for the leadership.

Brown calls for tough curbs on currency speculators

By JILL SHERMAN AND ROBERT MORGAN

GORDON Brown, the shadow chancellor yesterday demanded tough measures against "short-sleeved speculators" as he kept up Labour's onslaught on John Major's handling of the economy.

Calling for an international summit to draw up ways of curbing speculation, Mr Brown said the exchange rate mechanism had to be reformed and countries outside Europe had to play a part in ensuring economic stability. Meanwhile, the government should "get back to work" and draw up an emergency jobs programme to end the fear of unemployment.

"This global economy needs new international institutions so that never again should the lives and livelihoods of millions of people and the destinies of national economies be directed by a handful of short-sleeved speculators," Mr Brown said during the economy debate.

John Edmonds, general secretary of the GMB, also criticised speculators who had won £500 million out of the sterling crisis, and called for a "windfall tax". "If those cocky young men had bet on horses they would have had to pay a gambling tax. I can't see

why, just because they gamble on currencies, they should be allowed to pocket the lot."

Speaking to journalists later, Mr Brown agreed that a windfall tax should be discussed at the international summit. He urged Mr Major to use the EC summit on October 16 to argue for wider powers and resources to help weak currencies before they hit the ERM floor.

The time limit for intervention by central banks should be extended from three to six months, the scope for intervention at intra marginal rates (between the floor and ceiling of a currency) should be extended, and European reserves be pooled.

The shadow chancellor criticised the current "vacuum" at the heart of British government. To widespread applause he said: "I say to Norman Lamont, spend your energies pursuing the useful goal of creating jobs for others rather than the futile one of clinging to your own."

His attack on the prime minister had delegates doubled up with laughter. The recession started when John Major became Treasury secretary, worsened when he became Chancellor and intensified when he took over as prime minister, Mr Brown said. "Every time he changed jobs thousands lost their lives. The recovery will only happen when John Major loses his."

Britain now had a government with no policy, a cabinet with no leader, a Chancellor "with virtually no Exchequer" and a prime minister with no ideas, no friends and soon no future, Mr Brown said. "Last week the Chancellor didn't just stop supporting the pound, he stopped supporting the prime minister, leaving him floating downwards to find his own level."

The conference passed a number of resolutions covering general economic policy, taxes and benefits, rights at work and union law, and pensions. But the national executive committee suffered a small setback when, against its advice, delegates voted in favour of a resolution demanding the repeal of the Child Support Act.

Tory-bashing fills conference vacuum

RIDDELL IN BLACKPOOL

DO NOT expect to learn much this week about where John Smith is going to lead the Labour party. The government's troubles over Europe and the economy have presented party leaders with an irresistible target, which they have not resisted.

Gordon Brown, Robin Cook and Gerald Kaufman yesterday made the most of John Major's misfortunes and the attack will be taken up this afternoon by Mr Smith. He will contrast the government's wobbles of the past fortnight with his consistently pro-European position.

Bryan Gould's resignation now looks likely to be just a 24-hour distraction. After last April's defeat this could have been a tricky conference with the possibility of recriminations. There would have been little new or positive to say in view of Mr Smith's caution about rushing into policy commitments. The vacuum has been filled by Tory-bashing.

None of yesterday's speakers had much of substance to offer. Mr Brown set out broad themes, a national recovery programme, a new economics of partnership and co-operation, as well as proposals to improve the workings of the exchange rate mechanism. Today Mr Smith will talk about the need for a more activist government, a theme which seems to be attracting support on both sides of the Atlantic as the Bush and Major administrations appear passive in face of the continued recession.

The absence of a detailed alternative does not mean that the leadership team is complacent and accepts that "one more heaven" will be enough. Party officials point to the new aims and values document, *Agenda for change*, as a pointer to where Labour is going.

Like most such documents, it is long on vague generalities and short on specifics. But, at least, it opens up questions about changing the role of government and altering the balance between consumers and entrenched interests.

For once it is also worth reading the fine print. The appendix sets out the proposed new policy-making

machinery, not just the national policy forum, but also, more significantly, the new joint policy committee of the shadow cabinet and the national executive. This will, in practice, determine priorities. The appendix contains innocuous seeming references to allowing "ourselves as much flexibility as possible in our policy making" and seeking "to agree and sustain clear priorities — in the light of Britain's economic prospects — in terms of our nationalities and xenophobes".

What this means is that Labour wants to avoid the difficulties which bedevilled its 1987 and 1992 campaigns. In 1987, Labour's costed programme was picked to pieces by Nigel Lawson, who argued that it would mean large tax increases. In 1992, Labour sought to avoid that trap by limiting its specific costed commitments and saying that other, uncoded and vaguer, proposals would only be introduced when they could be afforded. None the less, the Conservatives made their own, naturally pessimistic, estimates of the cost of these plans which added up to the £1,000 a year on the average tax bill.

Many Labour leaders believe that the firm commitments made in 1989 to raising child benefits and state pensions were a mistake since by last April the Tories had themselves increased child benefit, while the earlier large public sector surplus had turned into a large deficit.

In one respect Labour can never win since it is seen as the party of government spending and higher taxation. But the new policy-making machinery is intended to ensure that all policy pledges are related to their overall spending and tax consequences and that promises made two or three years before an election are not set in stone and can be changed. This shift in policy-making, rather the headline attacks on the Tories, is likely to be the lasting legacy of the conference.

ON the final Monday of the election campaign, Gordon Brown and Tony Blair, close friends and allies, had a quick coffee on the station concourse at Euston before leaving on separate trains for tours of the Midlands. They discussed what jokes would suit each better when they met up again at an evening rally in Birmingham.

Then someone suggested that within a week they might, if the polls were right, be ministers rather than shadow spokesmen, enduring the frustrations of Opposition. They both paused, struck by the enormity of that prospect.

The polls were, of course, wrong, and both were for a time exhausted and depressed. But they soon bounced back to support John Smith in his leadership campaign and to argue for further changes in Labour's policies and organisation if it is to win power.

Their victories in yesterday's elections to the national executive at the expense of Dennis Skinner, the standard bearer of the hard-left — confirmed that they will be at the centre of the Labour party's changes over the next few years.

Mr Brown and Mr Blair, aged 41 and 39 respectively, are popularly linked as the inseparable twins of Labour's new generation. Unusually, this is not just media hype but reflects a genuine friendship. They talk frequently, developing their ideas together and ensuring that they do not clash, either in what they say or in standing against each other.

But they are very different personalities. Mr Brown often

LABOUR'S NATIONAL EXECUTIVE	
Judith Church (MSF)	4,743,000
Tony Clarke (UCV)	4,470,000
Gordon Colling (GPMU)	4,745,000
Bill Connor (Ladew)	4,780,000
Dan Duffy (TGWU)	4,812,000
Nigel Harris (AELU)	4,651,000
Vernon Hince (RMT)	4,745,000
Charlie Kelly (Ucat)	4,771,000
Cole O'Kane (Cofes)	3,353,000
Richard Rose (TSSA)	3,972,000
Tow Sawyer (Nupie)	4,789,000
David Ward (NCU-ENG)	4,706,000
Not elected:	
Ken Capstick (NLM)	2,253,000
Terry O'Neill (BFWU)	181,000
Socialist/Co-operative/Others:	
John Evans (NULSC)	52,000
Not elected:	
Joanna Tait (SEA)	11,000
Constituency Labour parties:	
Tony Benn (Cheshire)	354,000
Tony Blair (Sedgefield)	387,000
David Blunkett (Sheffield, Brightside)	531,000
Gordon Brown (Durham)	522,000
Robin Cook (Livingston)	426,000
Neil Kinnock (Selwyn)	533,000
John Prescott (Hull East)	446,000
Not elected:	
Diane Abbott (Hackney North & Stoke Newington)	49,000
Paul Boateng (Brent S)	18,000
Jeremy Corbyn (Islington North)	22,000
Tam Dalyell (Linlithgow)	17,000
Andrew Yungie Gordon (Woodward)	1,000
Bryan Gould (Bagenham)	179,000
Ken Livingstone (Brent Central)	
East:	145,000
Alice Mahon (Hull)	57,000
Michael Meacher (Oldham)	7,000
Grainne Metcalfe (Mid Staffordshire)	1,000
Dawn Primarolo (Bristol South)	48,000
Dennis Skinner (Bolsover)	308,000
Clive Soley (Hammersmith)	4,000
John Speller (Warrley West)	5,000
Mike Stokoe (Barnsley Central)	1,000
Andy Whitfield (Lancaster)	1,000
Eleanor Young (Darlington)	3,000
Women members:	
Hilary Armstrong (MSF)	4,988,000
Not elected:	
Brenda Echells (AELU)	3,895,000
Diana Jevon (Ladew)	5,049,000
Joan Lester (Coles)	5,152,000
Claire Short (Birmingham, Ladywood)	5,082,000
Not elected:	
Doreen Cameron	301,000
Mary Honeyball (CWS)	248,000
Anni Marjoram (Finchley)	354,000
Lorraine Monk (Surrey)	221,000
Pauline Purnell (Birmingham, Edgbaston)	228,000
Pam Tallow (Chesham)	286,000
Treasures:	
Tom Burton (GMB-GMW)	3,307,000
Not elected:	
Gavin Strang (Edinburgh Central)	1,977,000
Richard Sella (CWS)	97,000

Japan party baron gets token fine in cash scandal

FROM JOANNA PITMAN IN TOKYO

JAPAN'S shadowy leading political powerbroker is to be fined for accepting illegal donations.

Tokyo prosecutors yesterday filed a summary charge against Shin Kanemaru, the ruling Liberal Democratic Party's "kingmaker", after he submitted a statement on Friday admitting that in 1989 he had accepted a political donation of 500 million yen (£2.3 million), some five times more than the legal limit.

Mr Kanemaru will not have to appear in court and it is expected that he will be fined about £900, the same penalty as that imposed on some traffic offenders and on those damaging bank notes or committing acts of indecency.

Mr Kanemaru is believed to have arranged with prosecutors to pay the fine in return for an end to any further

embarrassing investigations about his links with Sagawa Kyubin, the errand trucking company that paid him the £2.3 million, and with a group of prominent gangsters connected to the firm.

The humiliation resulting from the exposure of his involvement in the Sagawa affair—Japan's latest political corruption scandal, which involves more than 200 MPs—will be a more significant penalty for Mr Kanemaru, although few analysts expect him to go so far as to resign his parliamentary seat.

When it comes to political misdemeanours it is not easy to astonish the Japanese any more. Since the second world war, they have witnessed 18 big political corruption scandals, ostensibly humbling senior Liberals and triggering gushing apologies and promises of reforms. Unfortunately, for the crusading few in Japanese politics, dozens of opposition members are also implicated in the latest affair and in public they are remaining silent.

Yukio Aoshima, an opposition MP and leader of a minority party called the Nihon Club, began a hunger strike on Saturday to protest Mr Kanemaru's behaviour. Holding a placard reading, "Never pardon Kanemaru, the enemy of democracy", he was taken to hospital on Sunday when his condition suddenly weakened.

Kiyoshi Kaneko, the Liberal former governor of Niigata prefecture, was also charged yesterday over the illegal receipt of funds from Sagawa Kyubin. Mr Kaneko will have to stand trial.

Mr Kanemaru, 78, has been hiding out at his luxurious Tokyo home since standing down as Liberal vice-president a month ago. Titles do not count for much in Japanese politics and although he has never been prime minister, Mr Kanemaru has long been acknowledged as one of the two most powerful members of the political establishment. Along with Noboru Takeshita, a former prime minister, he takes credit for having hired and fired Japan's last four prime ministers. Evidence from past scandals suggests that Mr Kanemaru will be allowed to retain his influence.

Conveniently for the Liberals, members of the Socialist party, Japan's largest opposition party, are also implicated; and Makoto Tanabe, the chairman, is a friend and supporter of Mr Kanemaru.

Tales of Mr Kanemaru's alleged past transgressions have begun springing up. The Yomiuri newspaper dug up his memoirs in which he said: "The role of 'underworld staff' is to handle 'underground money'—money handed illegally to voters. I was in charge of 600,000 yen during the 1953 election."



Yawn choros: Taiwanese schoolboys dressed in ancient costumes and carrying batons decorated with pheasant feathers, waiting to perform a dance at the Confucius temple in Taipei yesterday to mark the anniversary of the Chinese philosopher's birth 2,542 years ago

Peking to help end hostility

FROM WILLIAM BRENT IN PEKING

CHINA yesterday boosted prospects for a reunified Korea by suggesting it would use its influence over North Korea to help push forward the peace process.

In a historic summit ending 43 years of hostility, President Roh Tae Woo of South Korea met President Yang Shangkun of China and asked Peking to help persuade Pyongyang to open up its alleged nuclear weapons programme to mutual inspection. "It is most important that South and North Korea conduct mutual nuclear inspections," Lee Jung Ha, Mr Roh's press secretary, said.

Nuclear inspection is the main stumbling block to unification talks between the Koreas. China wanted a nuclear weapons-free Korea and would play a role in achieving peace, Mr Yang said.

International pressure on North Korea was "not desirable", Mr Yang said. But the foreign ministry suggested China would use its close links with Pyongyang to nudge the hardline communist government out of isolation. (AFP)

Chinese back boy Buddha

FROM CATHERINE SAMPSON IN PEKING

FOR the first time since 1949, Tibet's communist rulers have approved the reincarnation of a living Buddha. In a three-day ceremony which ends today, an eight-year-old boy, O'kying Chilai, is being enthroned as the 17th Living Buddha of Garmaba, the head of the white sect of Tibetan Buddhism, with Peking's stamp of approval.

In this remote Himalayan region, however, where the Tibetans' hatred of their Han rulers frequently erupts in demonstrations, what appears to be a move by Peking towards increased tolerance of Tibetan Buddhism may mean the opposite. Peking is believed to be tightening its grip on the way Tibetans choose their spiritual leaders so as to control the choice of the next Panchen Lama. After the Dalai Lama, who lives in exile in India, the Panchen Lama is the most important Tibetan spiritual leader.

By approving O'kying Chilai as a reincarnated living Buddha, Peking has set a precedent and can claim the reincarnation of the Panchen Lama must receive such approval. The last Panchen Lama died in January 1989. According to Tibetan tradition his reincarnation should have been born the day he died.

The Panchen Lama was a useful middle man for Peking, playing a dual role as a loyal communist and a revered Buddhist leader. Towards the end of his life, he appeared to regret his association with Peking, and spoke out more forcefully on behalf of Tibet.

Comforts of Tokyo go abroad with troops

BY JOANNA PITMAN

They lack only the glassy reception lounges milling with bell-boys, the statuary indoor waterfall and kidney-shaped swimming pools with aquatic cocktail bars to make their sojourn truly worthy of a five-star lifestyle. But the 600 members of Japan's Self Defence Force, arriving in Cambodia this month to join the United Nations peacekeeping operations, will have almost everything else one might expect from any Sheraton or Hilton hotel.

To the envy of bivouacking soldiers from the other 46 nations participating in the operation, Japan's blue helmets are being settled in with every possible comfort at hand. In their free time they might go to a Japanese cinema, curl up in the reclining seats of their muscle halls, browse in the library, tone up their muscles in a gym, or simply kill time in a games arcade.

Takeno, a small village south of Phnom Penh which will be the main Japanese camp, is likely to take on an air of Tokyo's Ginza. There will be bars and clubs and laser-disc karaoke parlours, broadcasting the amplified croonings of homesick squaddies. There will be

yen-friendly vending machines offering Japanese cigarettes, beer and sake. And, according to some reports, there will be massage parlours.

Local peasants may be astonished to watch huge satellite television screens being installed in special viewing rooms, and soldiers unpacking piles of video recorders, stereo systems and computer games.

Although their UN counterparts are coping as best they can with the clammy nights under canvas, the Japanese are intending to erect pre-fabricated sleeping quarters, equipped with air-conditioning and mosquito screens.

The leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean), where memories of Japanese wartime atrocities are still vivid, have made it clear that they would prefer to continue receiving Japan's bankers and businessmen, rather than its soldiers. But fears of resurgent Japanese militarism appear at this stage unfounded.

Phnom Penh: Bulgarian peacekeepers serving with the UN in Cambodia will be given a pay increase after going on strike. (AFP)

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Heroes and villains walk free after de Klerk strikes deal with Mandela to restart talks



Defiant salute: McBride, the ANC car bomber, punching the air after his release in Durban yesterday. Supporters gave him a hero's welcome

Killers remain unrepentant as Pretoria grants amnesty

A STRANGE collection of heroes and villains came blinking into the sunlight from prisons all over South Africa yesterday.

Barend Strydom, a mass murderer who smiled as he shot dead six blacks and an Indian in the heart of Pretoria, because, he said, he hated blacks, smiled again as he was smuggled out of Pretoria jail. Khaki-clad right-wingers folded away the Boer republic's flag as he flashed by in a car and they missed the opportunity to welcome him. Strydom was remembered for his smile. After his killing spree in 1988 he told the judge who gave him eight death sentences: "During the shooting the wounded did not appear to appreciate the gravity of their situation. I smiled. I see myself as a friendly person. It was difficult to suppress my laughter. I smiled and carried on."

Also smiling yesterday was Robert McBride, a Coloured murderer from Durban, who received a hero's welcome from African National Congress supporters. Including Walter Sisulu, the ANC's deputy president, as he stepped out of Westville prison. McBride set off a car bomb outside Mago's Bar, a popular beachfront café. Three young white women died and 69 people were injured.

"We will protect you," the crowd shouted, for McBride had been the victim of an attack by a hostile gang of inmates on the eve of his release. Armed with scissors and a padlock and chain, and allegedly encouraged by a prison warden, they were fought off by another group of prisoners. McBride was only slightly hurt. He said at a press conference later that he would take up arms again if the situation should require it, but he insisted that he would work for reconciliation now.

"Press reports about my case always say the victims were innocent civilians," he said. "But when the victims are black, like in Barend Strydom's case, then they are just blacks. If the situation was the same as in 1985, yes, I would take up arms again."

President de Klerk is steering a precarious path as he attempts to accommodate both the ANC and Chief Buthelezi, the Zulu leader, writes Michael Hamlyn from Johannesburg

McBride told the reception committee: "I am still not free — we still don't have the vote. If the people I killed had been black, I would have been freed in July 1991," he said. Asked if he thought there was any comparison between what he and Strydom had done, he said: "Absolutely none."

Curiously both McBride and Strydom were married while they dwelt on death row. Their wives were on hand yesterday to greet them. Paula McBride, the leftist daughter of a de Beers executive, works for the ANC-oriented Lawyers for Human Rights. Karen Rautenbach-Strydom runs a food stall in a tourist resort outside Pretoria.

Also freed yesterday were some professional assassins from the armed wing of the ANC, Umkhonto we Sizwe, the Spear of the Nation. Mzondeli Nondulu was freed from Glamorgan prison in East London. Mthetheli Mncube, his co-defendant in 1986, was also freed from Pretoria jail. They were sentenced to life in prison for a series of landmine explosions



Strydom: murderer who kept smiling

in which seven people were killed. They had been trained outside the country, and when they were finally captured Mncube managed to get his hands free, grab an AK47 from his police escort and escape again. He killed two policemen in the process.

The release of prisoners who, President de Klerk said, had committed atrocious crimes for political reasons, was part of the deal which was struck so that the president

and Nelson Mandela, the ANC leader, could resume talks. The government had for long insisted that they could not be called political prisoners, but finally agreed to let them out.

More than 150 had been freed by yesterday. Another four hundred or more names are on a list the ANC has prepared which will be acted upon by November 15. The right-wingers freed are felt to have also committed "political crimes".

Among those released on Saturday were two who had necklaced *impimpi*, or police informers. "I was happy watching him burn," said George Skosana as he walked to freedom. "I would do it again if necessary." His cellmate, Lucky Malaza, described to reporters how he killed his man. "He was killing us, through what he was telling the police," he said.

"One day we grabbed him and took him before a people's court. By using force we got him to confess that he was an *impimpi*. The judge, one of the community elders, sentenced him to death. We put the tyre around him and poured petrol on him and lit a match. He screamed and screamed and tried to pull the tyre off, but could not. He took a long time to die."

Gloomy scenario, page 22

President reassures Buthelezi

PRESIDENT de Klerk of South Africa wrote yesterday to Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, chief minister of KwaZulu and leader of the Inkatha Freedom Party, to discuss his weekend outburst against the deal struck at the summit between Mr de Klerk and Nelson Mandela, the president of the African National Congress. Mr de Klerk said that, in the light of the trust that he had developed with the Zulu leader, he would not respond publicly.

Chief Buthelezi, irascible and touchy, is and will remain important to the gov-

ernment's constitutional strategy, and it would clearly be counter-productive to offend him. "Perhaps he would command 10 to 15 per cent of the total vote in a national election," one observer said yesterday. "And unless the ANC wins that election by a landslide, that 10 per cent would be an important asset. De Klerk cannot be insensitive to Buthelezi. His whole strategy depends on an alliance between the National party and a series of regional parties, of which Inkatha is by far the most important."

But not everyone agrees

that Chief Buthelezi is a significant player. Tom Lodge, assistant professor of politics at Witwatersrand university, insists that although the government cannot go ahead without the ANC, all the other players are of secondary importance.

"He is not going to bring the government many votes, whether in or out of office," he said. "Much more sensible in the long term... would be for the National party to nurture the white vote and to build support among the conservative Coloured and Indian population."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Saddam opponents seek help from UN

Shaplaw: A new Iraqi opposition body, representing most of the factions opposed to President Saddam Hussein, which was set up in Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq this week, has appealed to the United Nations to use frozen Iraqi assets for humanitarian relief to try to prevent starvation in the country this winter (Claire Pointon writes).

The call was part of a declaration by the so-called Iraqi National Congress, grouping more than 30 opposition factions — including Shias, Kurds, liberals, communists, and independents. The group also announced that, after negotiations on quotas of ethnic, political and religious elements, the make-up of a 174-member national assembly for a democratic and pluralistic Iraqi government had been agreed.

Fears of a disaster in the north of the country after the cold weather starts in mid-November have already prompted the UN to draw up plans for a £34 million aid programme. A fact-finding group from America, Britain, France and Turkey is expected to arrive in the area within the next fortnight to assess needs.

Nigeria crash rescue held up

Lagos: Thick swamp and heavy rains hampered the efforts of rescue workers to recover the bodies of more than 160 young officers of the Nigerian military who were killed when an air force plane crashed north of Lagos on Saturday (Elizabeth Obadina writes).

The wreckage of a Hercules C130 transport plane, which nosedived minutes after take-off from Lagos for a military staff college in Jaji, lies buried in mud. Reports said 163 army, air force and navy officers had died, but the toll could rise above the 176 of Nigeria's worst air disaster in 1973. Experts were mystified by the crash, which robbed the military of a whole stratum of young officers seemingly bound for high rank.

Border fence

Delhi: The Indian government announced that it would fence more than 500 miles of the border with Bangladesh by 1996 to keep out the tens of thousands annually who are illegal immigrants. (AFP)

Guzmán trial

Lima: Abimael Guzmán, the leader of Peru's Shining Path guerrillas, appeared before a military court on treason charges. He will be sentenced within ten days and is expected to be jailed for life. (Reuters)

Sure faith

New York: Most Americans believe that Jesus Christ will return in the next century. America will have a woman president and a cure will be found for Aids and cancer, a poll for Time magazine and CNN showed. (Reuters)

Tourist threat

Srinagar: A leading Kashmiri militant group warned tourists to leave the troubled area in three days or they would "come to harm". (Reuters)

Wobble factor

Auckland: At least 20 teenagers were treated for chemical burns to their eyes after a rugby club staged a jelly-wrestling competition. The gelatin in the jelly reacted with other ingredients. (AFP)

Rabin calls for summit with Assad

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

YITZHAK Rabin, the Israeli prime minister, said yesterday that the key to peace with Damascus lay in the hands of President Assad and he urged the Syrian leader to hold talks with him.

In an interview with Israel radio marking the Jewish new year, Mr Rabin said his wish for the coming year was that Israel would secure a peace agreement with at least one of the Arab participants to the present peace talks.

"With Syria I do not believe we will reach a solution without the involvement of the highest political echelons. Without this I do not see how it can be made clear to the Israeli public that Assad wants peace," he said. "The key is in the hands of the Syrians."

He described the current contacts with Syria, Lebanon and a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation, due to resume in Washington on October 31, as an interim measure and emphasised that he was seeking a repetition of the historic Camp David accords negotiated between the late Egyptian and Israeli leaders. "Without the involvement of the top political leader of an Arab country and Israel in the efforts to bring about peace I doubt if peace is attainable," said Mr Rabin.

He said that so far President Assad had shown no inclination to hold a summit meeting. He went on to question what exactly Faruk al-Sharara, the Syrian foreign minister, meant last week when he by offering Israel "total peace" in exchange for a "total withdrawal" from lands captured by Israel in 1967. Asked about reports of Syria's attempts to build up its chemical weapons arsenal, Mr Rabin, a former general and defence minister, said that arms control in the Middle East would probably be the last area of negotiation after a regional peace treaty was signed. Pointing to the aftermath of Camp David, he said: "Egypt continues to modernise its armed forces, there is no let up in the purchasing of arms, just as there is no let up in our arming ourselves."

Kuwait stock market reopens after war

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN KUWAIT CITY

WITH a prolonged ring on the trading bell and shouts from dealers peering through binoculars, Kuwait's stock exchange reopened yesterday for the first time since Iraq's 1990 invasion.

The resumption in dealing at the imposing marble and glass building was a potent symbol of reconstruction in the face of continuing Iraqi claims that oil-rich Kuwait is its nineteenth province. "This finally says goodbye to Saddam Hussein. It means our economy is gaining strength," said Abdullah al-Jarallah, the minister of commerce, who rang the bell amid clouds of incense. "Against all the odds, we are back in business."

Wafa al-Rashid, a stock exchange official, said many Kuwaitis preferred investing in shares rather than banks because interest, prohibited by Islam, was not involved. Investors with millions of dinars locked into the market had expected prices of the 30 of 54 pre-invasion shares quoted yesterday to drop initially by up to half. But brokers

said that falls, notably in the key market share, the National Bank of Kuwait, were less than expected.

Annual prewar turnover on the exchange was \$3.3 billion (£1.9 billion). The exchange is modelled jointly on those in London and Singapore.

Conspicuously missing was the \$9 million computer system which was plundered by Iraqi soldiers and taken to Baghdad. Instead, much of the hectic early trading was conducted manually as dealers in white robes shouted instructions and onlookers gazed down from a balcony. Guests were served smoked salmon and strawberries.

The reopening was held less than a week before Kuwait holds its first parliamentary election since 1985. "With the prospect of a new parliament, the exchange open and the press free, things are better now than before the invasion," said an exchange researcher.

But some Kuwaitis argued that confidence was not sufficiently restored, and prewar investors would suffer catastrophic losses.



Perot: to decide by end of the week

Perot keeps US waiting

FROM JAMIE DETTMER IN TEXAS

ALL the elements that have made this year's presidential election one of the strangest in US history came together yesterday in a Dallas hotel where Ross Perot and his followers questioned Democrat and Republican delegations about their economic plans.

The Texas billionaire continued to flirt with the idea of renewing his challenge for the White House but yet again refused to commit himself. He said he would make up his mind by the end of the week.

Free Angola election tests UN role in fostering democracy

FROM SAM KILEY IN LUANDA

ANGOLA votes today in its first democratic elections. The poll will be both a test of democracy in Africa and of the role of the United Nations in filling the power vacuum left on the continent by the end of the Cold war.

In the 48 hours leading up to polling, the UN is organising 320 flights to carry observers and election materials to the many parts of the country that remain accessible only by air because of mines laid during the long civil war between the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (Unita) and the ruling Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) which ended last year.

The presidential elections are a two-horse race between Jonas Savimbi, the Unita leader, and President dos Santos. But the 4.86 million registered voters, 75 per cent of them illiterate, will also be voting for 223 deputies in a new national assembly.

Up to last night, campaigning had been peaceful by African standards, although about 30 people have been

killed in clashes between Unita and MPLA soldiers in the past month. But the potential remains for a violent reaction by the loser when the results become known at the end of the week.

Intelligence sources have confirmed that both Unita and the MPLA have kept troops out of the demobilisation camps monitored by the UN and that Unita may still be holding Stinger surface-to-air missiles supplied by America in the late 1980s. Against this background, Margaret Anstee, the UN secretary-general's special representative to Angola, described the international community's logistical support for the elections as vital, although the UN's original mandate was merely to monitor the ceasefire and demobilisation of 150,000 troops on both sides and to verify the elections.

"We did not have the budget for much more but after pressurising the international community we have got more money and the loan of aircraft for the election days and the counting," Miss Anstee, a

former academic and Downing Street political adviser, said. "It's a bit Heath Robinson, but I am sure we'll be all right on the night. Logistics are a political issue, and if they break down then either side may use this as an excuse for saying that the elections were neither free nor fair."

Diplomats in Luanda, the capital, said the UN Angola verification mission (Unavem) under Miss Anstee had played a crucial role in keeping the elections on track and helping to take the heat out of violent incidents between the two sides. The experience in Angola is likely to be a model for a similar operation in Mozambique, another former Portuguese territory, where it is expected a peace agreement between the rebel Mozambique National Resistance and the government will be signed this week.

"Unavem has been a success so far, and if the electoral process breaks down the blame will rest with the Angolans and their leaders," one diplomat said here.

Brazil awaits Collor's fate as congress prepares for showdown vote

FROM MAC MARGOLIS IN BRASILIA

Backed to the wall by protests and charges of corruption, President Collor de Mello of Brazil faces a showdown in congress today that could bring down his government.

His fate is in the hands of the 503 members of the lower house, who vote today in a special session on whether to remove him from power and authorise the senate to begin an impeachment trial.

The legislators will step up to the microphone on the congressional floor and one by one declare their vote in favour or against the president. If two-thirds of congress votes against him, Senator Collor will be automatically suspended from power.

Opposition leaders have headed to mass protests by 300,000 people outside the

congress demanding impeachment. The authorities have deployed hundreds of police, security guards, vehicles and helicopters to ring the congress building.

In the run-up to today's vote legislators on both sides have claimed victory. The president's allies, the so-called "shoot troop" of attorneys and politicians who back him, claimed more than 220 votes, far more than the one-third of congress necessary to block impeachment. The opposition forces said they will muster 370 votes, comfortably over the two-thirds.

Senator Collor is charged with taking money and favours in one of the country's worst corruption scandals, commanded allegedly by his former campaign manager, Paulo Cesar Farias, and in-

volving hundreds of millions of dollars. Last weekend, Senator Farias was charged by police investigators on nine counts, ranging from bank fraud to influence peddling, which could bring him up to 51 years in prison.

If Senator Collor loses the battle in congress, he will be removed from office for up to 180 days while the senate begins the formal impeachment trial. In theory, he could return to power if the senate rejects the charges. However, political observers here say it will be nearly impossible for him to return to office once he has been suspended.

Impeachment would be a bitterly ironic end for Senator Collor, the young, dashing candidate who swept to power in 1990 promising a new deal for the "shirtless and

shockless" Brazilians and to eject the corrupt from power. Virtually a political nobody, Senator Collor soared to national prominence less than five years ago when as governor of the small, wretchedly poor state of Alagoas he launched a crusade against overpaid and underworked civil servants.

He vowed in 1987 that "the government of change will not allow the people's money to be used by a small caste of the privileged". Those words came back to haunt him earlier this year, when his younger brother, Pedro, annoyed over a family business dispute, decided to take his grievances to the press. He told a sordid tale of a "mafia" of cronies who had installed themselves

in power, exacting bribes from businessmen and "selling" government contracts for fat commissions, all with the president's consent.

The denunciation hurt Senator Collor, who had won international acclaim for launching a bold plan of economic reform, imposing severe sacrifice on a recession-battered nation in the name of modernisation. A congressional investigation was begun, and three months later found that he had personally benefitted from Senator Farias' corruption ring, whose largesse included clothes and haircuts for his wife, Rosane, and building a £1.5 million garden at his private home.

Senator Collor vehemently denied all charges and swore not to resign. However, Bra-

zilians took to the streets by the tens of thousands, their faces smeared in funeral black, to demand his removal.

"We had a political project. We managed to change the agenda of Brazil," said Renan Calheiros, a former right-hand man to the president in congress. "But he just got too greedy. He thought he was untouchable."

A personal tragedy for Senator Collor may also mean a rare moment of glory for this country's tender democracy. In Brazil, where the military and autocrats have reigned through much of the century, presidents are generally removed by coups and cloak-room deals. The military is keeping out of the current turmoil and impeachment, though painful, is proceeding according to the constitution.



Rosane Collor: alleged to have got free clothes

Amid denials of two-speed strategy, Germany and France lay plans for mini-Europe on the Rhine

Bonn and Paris prepare for day Britain backs out

ACCORDING to German newspaper reports, detailed contingency plans are being drawn up for a mini-monetary union in Europe, centred on France and Germany, in the wake of recent turmoil in the exchange-rate mechanism.

The plans have not been officially denied. But the Bonn government coalition parties yesterday made a point of rejecting out of hand any idea of a resulting "two-speed Europe".

The reports all emanate from Brussels sources, suggesting that they have been leaked by EC officials close to Jacques Delors in an effort to increase pressure on Britain to exercise its authority as current president of the EC's council of ministers to speed up the

ratification process. True or not, publication of the reports has caused acute embarrassment to the government. Inside the chancellery it is acknowledged that this kind of publicity plays into the hands of Eurosceptics, making it even more difficult to ensure that the Maastricht treaty is adopted or keeps to its timetable if it is.

Peter Hintze, the general secretary of the Christian Democrats (CDU), made it obvious yesterday that his party leader, Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, is acutely worried now that British opponents of the Maastricht treaty will be encouraged by the story. A two-speed Europe was "dangerous", Herr Hintze told jour-

Ian Murray in Bonn and Charles Bremner in Paris report on Franco-German contingency plans for a mini-monetary union in Europe

nalists. Despite all the difficulties, he fervently hoped that the timetable for ratification of the treaty would proceed as planned.

In contrast, Count Otto Lambdordt, leader of the Free Democrats (FDP), the junior partners in the coalition, described the Maastricht timetable for monetary union as unrealistic. He told *Bunte* magazine that he did not believe it was possible to start this from 1999, and he insisted that the Bundestag would

have to be given the final say before Germany entered such a system. His party president, meanwhile, issued a statement strongly condemning the idea of any kind of "mini-Europe". Discussion or even rumours of such a scheme were absurd and damaging to the future progress of the Maastricht treaty, they said in a statement.

Nevertheless, one of the chancellor's closest aides has confirmed that "emergency planning" has been going

ahead on creating a common autonomous bank with a seat in Frankfurt and headed by a Frenchman. The aim would be to look at the feasibility of setting this up in the event that Britain does not ratify Maastricht.

According to *Der Spiegel*, the idea was discussed between Herr Kohl and President Mitterrand when they met in Paris last week. The news magazine story was not only denied but described as "poison" and "completely fictitious" by the government, which last week also denied a report by *Die Welt* that the two had discussed a "mini-Europe" when they met.

Diplomatic observers here are sure that the two leaders did consider how to accelerate

European integration if Britain failed to ratify the treaty but that both agreed it was more important now to do all they could to help John Major. "If we can devise ways of interpreting and publicising the treaty in a way which calms the sceptics in Britain, then that will achieve much more than a two-speed Europe," one government official explained. "A two-speed Europe would be a no-speed Europe because the Community would tear itself apart."

Nevertheless, the two-speed idea is winning growing support in Germany, particularly among bankers who are worried that a European system including weak economies would be unstable and would damage German interests.

Karl-Otto Pöhl, the former Bundesbank president, is calling for new negotiations to create a strong currency union, possibly including the Swiss and Austrians.

In Paris, Elisabeth Guigou, the European affairs minister, said yesterday that France is keen to help Britain ratify the Maastricht treaty but will not wait indefinitely.

The Elysée presidential palace announced that Mr Major would visit Paris tomorrow to discuss the future of European political, economic and monetary union with President Mitterrand. Mme Guigou had earlier said the talks would be held on Thursday.

"First of all we wish to do everything we can to help Mr Major, who is a sincere sup-

porter of ratification of the treaty, to persuade his parliament to ratify this treaty," Mme Guigou told radio Europe-1. "But we will also say naturally that we are not going to wait indefinitely."

Mr Major is due to meet Poul Schlüter, the Danish prime minister, in London tomorrow after returning from his meeting with Mitterrand. He will chair an emergency EC summit in Birmingham on October 10.

Mme Guigou said there could be no question of reopening the Maastricht treaty text. "This treaty must be implemented. We must act to make that possible."

Two-speed Europe, page 1
Leading article, page 15

Ministers jostle for place in Europe's financial fast track

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

EUROPEAN Community finance ministers, at their first meeting since the pound was pulled out of the exchange-rate mechanism, yesterday proclaimed their loyalty to the ERM while manoeuvring in case it founders.

Several ministers rushed to lay claim to a place in the fast-track of any two-speed European economy. Officially not one capital in the Community believes that Germany and France are preparing to take a select group of states into a single currency if the Maastricht treaty is not ratified by all 12 states. In practice, governments anxious to join were yesterday busy showing their credentials.

"I would like to stress that whatever happens, it is the policy of the Danish government to participate in the hard core of the ERM," said Anders Fogh Rasmussen, the Danish economic affairs minister. He implied that Denmark, which rejected key parts of Maastricht's prescriptions for monetary and political union in a referendum in June, would be happy to see the ERM's "narrow band" of permissible exchange-rate fluctuations made narrower.

The Irish punt has been

under severe pressure in the ERM during the past fortnight and yesterday interest rates rose to 13.75 per cent. Capital controls were reimposed last week. But in Brussels yesterday Bertie Ahern, the finance minister, stoutly asserted that Ireland intended to stay up with the leaders. "If there is a first group, we will be part of it," an Irish official said later. "All the fundamentals of our economy meet the requirements of that fast track." Mr Ahern, the official added, had talked to Horst Koehler, the junior German finance minister, yesterday and obtained an assurance that Ireland would indeed make the grade. Herr Koehler is effectively the membership secretary for any inner club of the future.

At the pivotal meeting in the Dutch town of Apeldoorn a year ago, the EC's poorer economies were told that the Maastricht treaty would allow an unknown number of leading economies to forge ahead with economic union in 1999. If a single currency waited for the Greek economy to catch up, the argument ran, the single currency would never happen. "All we're doing now," said one EC diplomat, "is pulling the diplomat-

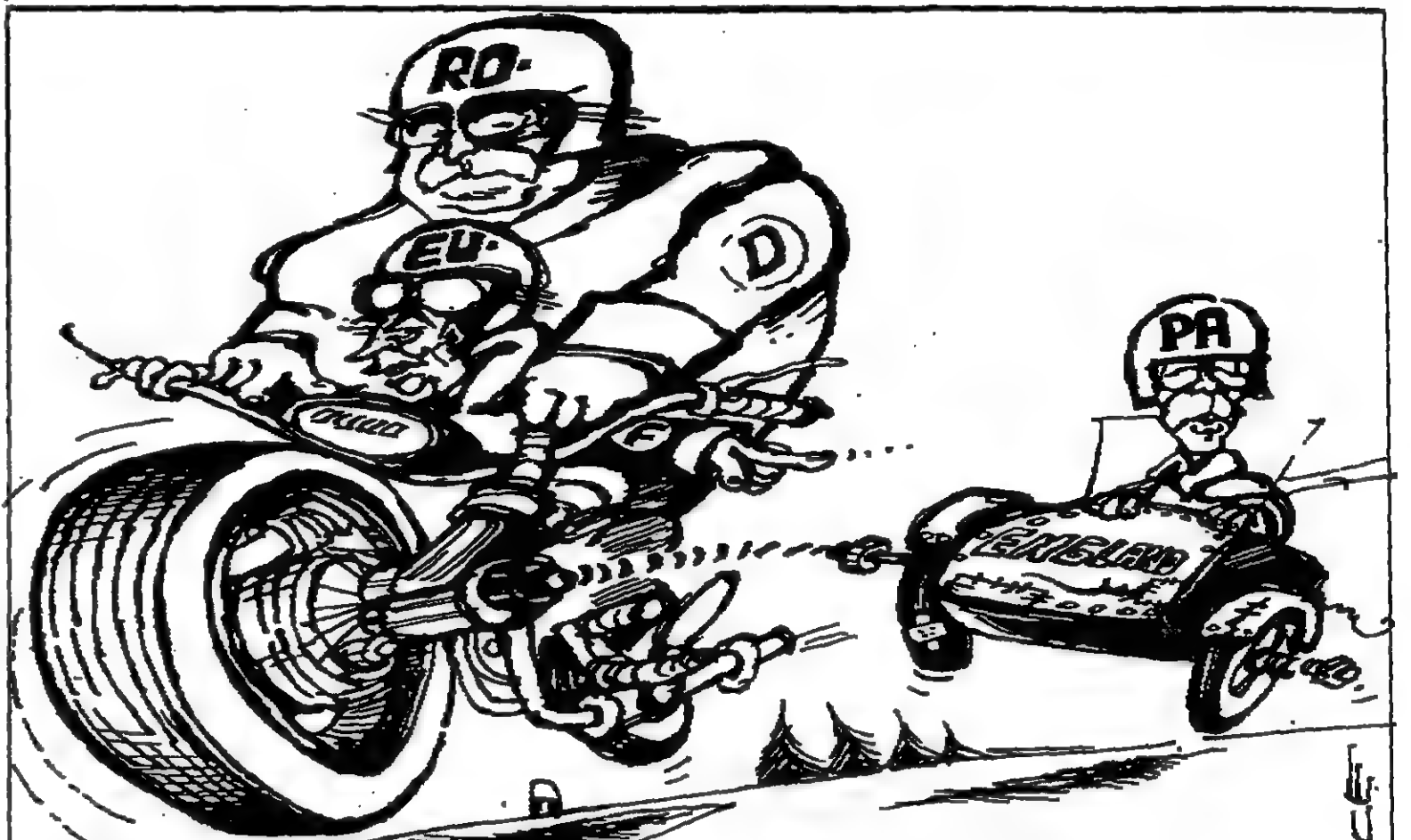
camouflage off the machinery we put into the treaty. Two speeds always has been inevitable: now it's just more obvious than it was."

Before setting the fate of the treaty, the EC leaders who will meet in Birmingham on October 16 have to find a way of storm-proofing the ERM. Two members with vulnerable currencies, Spain and Ireland, have exchange controls in place. Italy has reneged on its promise to return to the ERM, and nobody in Brussels expects a rapid decision by Britain.

According to the Maastricht timetable, the governments should pick a site for the European Central Bank by the end of the year and start narrowing differences between exchange rates on January 1, 1994. The key decisions at Birmingham may effectively split the ERM into two groups: currencies heading for ever-narrower exchange-rate bands and the remainder in wider bands and liable to be devalued in realignments.

Whatever happens, Britain and Greece will form a third group outside the grid. Shortly after sterling left the ERM, John Major made a passing reference to Britain enjoying the same status as Greece inside the European monetary system but outside the exchange-rate mechanism. At present, the pound, Italian lira and Greek drachma all fit in this category. The currencies are built into the formula used to calculate the value of the ecu and the governments have signed the Maastricht treaty which commits them to make Europe's economies converge, although Britain can avoid joining the single currency.

Being paired with Greece outside a redrawn ERM would be politically ignominious for Britain but implies no onerous obligation. Athens claims that it will join the ERM at the end of next year, but few believe it. Greek macro-economic policy, which is effectively supervised in Brussels, has brought inflation down from 24 per cent to 15 this year but it remains the obvious laggard of the Community. But Britain and Greece may be joined by other refugee states if the ERM is confined only to countries heading for German-run monetary union before 2000.



Helmut on wheels: a cartoon in the *Westdeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung* with France telling Kohl, "Helmut, we need a two-speed Europe"

Dead parrot passes on to Franco-German TV

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS

AFTER all the weeks of German-bashing, France was treated last night to something it did not know it needed: a fully-fledged Franco-German television network.

Willkommen-Bienvenue to the world of Arte, a bilingual television idea whose time has come, at least in the view of President Mitterrand and Jack Lang, his culture minister. The Socialist president persuaded Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, into launching the scheme before their latest exercise in Euro-brotherhood, the Franco-German defence force.

The mission of Arte, financed by €142 million per year of taxpayers' marks and francs and operating out of Paris, Strasbourg and Baden Baden, is to promote understanding between the French and Germans and following soon with the Belgians. Like the EMS, other countries are being invited to join later to help create a single television "space".

The Euro-station is high-brow, offering *culture/kultur* in a babel of subtitles and

dubbing. The effect is a little like the forced bonhomie that used to characterise Soviet efforts to induce "friendship" among the people's democracies. French veterans of the wartime occupation are drawing darker comparisons.

Viewers on both sides of the Rhine might have been forgiven some confusion when they tuned into the broadcast last night and found a 20-year-old episode of *Monty Python's Flying Circus*. In the near-Maastricht world, however, John Cleese's famed sketch about the late parrot/feu-perroquet/verstorbene Papagei comes over just as well as a poly-glot.

After a try-out on cable in Germany and France during the summer months, Arte took to the prime time in France last night on the channel previously occupied by La Cinq, the commercial network which went bankrupt last December. There, to lure viewers away from the game shows and sexy soap operas, it offered a documentary on ancient Egypt. The centrepiece of the evening was Wim Wenders' *France*.

German film of 1987, *Wings of Desire*. That followed the 20.30 evening news, a surreal event with the Fellini-esque title 8-1/2 and no newsreader. The absent anchorman was one of many concessions to the cultural differences which weigh heavily on the station.

The Germans, for example, like long documentaries and discussions, while the French prefer more *divertissement*. The Germanic talk sessions are even more long-winded because of the needs of simultaneous translation.

Pre-recorded material gets by with subtitles and dubbing. Another problem is sleeping habits. The Germans eat dinner and go to bed earlier, so the French are only starting on their first aperitif when Arte is into prime time. M Lang failed in an attempt to persuade the German partners, the state-run ARD and ZDF networks, to let France opt out of the most boring fare.

Tonight, viewers can look forward to a two-hour documentary on "26 days in the life of Dostoyevsky", which is



Opening fling: a scene from the Franco-German film *Wings of Desire* shown on the new Arte channel

part of one of the three nights per week devoted to a single cultural theme.

Reaction in France has mixed mockery with admiration for an heroic hybrid so clearly destined to fail all the standard tests of audience ratings. "Watching it is like having to take your bacca-laureat every night," joked

one critic. Speaking for the real intellectual classes, *Le Monde* yesterday sniffed at the professed disdain of Alain Meneval, the programme director, for attracting an audience. "Do they think at Arte that Molière or Mozart did not care about the public?" *Le Monde* wondered.

Romanian elections

Former communists hold sway

FROM ADAM LEBOR IN BUCHAREST

ROMANIA leapt back to the future yesterday as President Iliescu looked on course to continue his hold on power. Preliminary election results showed him comfortably beating Emil Constantinescu, his main rival for the presidency. At the same time Mr Iliescu's supporters in the Democratic National Salvation Front will almost certainly be the largest party in parliament and are likely to form a coalition government, probably in alliance with nationalists and socialists.

Gheorghe Funar, the extreme nationalist who ran on an anti-Hungarian ticket, is expected to receive 11 per cent of the presidential vote. If confirmed nationwide the results will make Romania the only country in Eastern Europe still governed by former communists.

Detailed preliminary results announced last night by

the election results committee revealed that Mr Iliescu was in a commanding lead with 46.8 per cent of the 2.1 million votes already counted. Mr Constantinescu, the Democratic Convention candidate, had 31.7 per cent and Mr Funar with 10.9 per cent.

The result is a serious blow for the Democratic Convention. Opposition figures contested the preliminary results, and some hinted that there had been electoral fraud such as marred the last general election in 1990.

But most of the more than 500 international electoral observers believe that, while there was room for improvement, there was no evidence of widespread malpractice. "There is great difference between the May 1990 elections and the current one, and that is not only my feeling," Rene Combar, a Belgian observer, said. "I took part in

ballot counting at two polling stations and there is room for progress. But it is a matter of organisation which had no influence over the quality and fairness of the elections."

French observers said the elections were fair with no fraud and no incidents. But some of them said they were surprised at some organisational aspects which, while not illegal, could be a possible source of fraud.

Final results of the presidential contest will be announced on Saturday and for the 471-seat parliament on the following Tuesday. If, as seems likely, Mr Iliescu fails to win 50 per cent or more of the presidential vote, there will be a second-round ballot. If enough votes transfer to Mr Constantinescu he could still take his seat in the presidential palace and he has promised to continue his campaign.

Russia reinforces army as Tajik unrest grows

FROM ANNE MCELVOY IN MOSCOW

RUSSIA is to reinforce its military presence urgently in the troubled republic of Tajikistan in an attempt to stop rival factions there plundering its bases for weaponry and taking hostages to press their demands, the defence ministry here announced yesterday.

The emergency measure was announced after Russian troops had, with some difficulty, secured the release of 31 servicemen taken hostage by rival groups. It betrays Moscow's concern about the rapid deterioration in relations between Tajik fighters and former Soviet troops there.

An unspecified number of men will be moved urgently to support the 201st motorised rifle division deployed in the republic after what the ministry called "a dramatic worsening of the situation".

The ministry said: "Threats against the personnel of the Russian army, the capture of hostages, military hardware and combat weapons are be-

coming more and more frequent." The rebels had seized the men in an attempt to swap them for weapons, but agreed to hand over the hostages after an armoured convoy was dispatched. The convoy came under fire as it crossed the Valsky river, and two troops were wounded 50 miles south of Dushanbe. A team of army negotiators was sent from Moscow yesterday to try to secure the release of four officers still in the hands of Tajik fighters.

Georgia talks: Eduard Shevardnadze, the Georgian leader, held emergency talks with President Yeltsin yesterday on "saving" relations between the two republics as unrest and instability spread northwards from the Caucasus mountains and into southern Russia. The Russian parliament last week accused Georgia of violating the rights of Abkhazian separatists who are involved in a bitter armed stand off with the republic's forces.

UK troops fail to find way past Serb lines in Bosnia

BY MICHAEL EVANS AND ANTHONY HOWARD

BRITAIN and Spain, two of the countries providing soldiers for the expanded United Nations protection force in Bosnia-Herzegovina, are facing serious difficulties with their plans to send troops into the battle zones.

The British military reconnaissance party which has been trying to gain access from the north through Serbian lines to reach Tuzla and Doboj, where Britain's battle group is to be based, has had no success. The group is now being forced to consider an alternative route from the south or south-west.

Spain, which is among eight Nato countries that have offered troops or military support for the expanded UN force, has faced similar difficulties. A Spanish group is trying to reconnoitre Mostar, the town southwest of Sarajevo picked for the country's humanitarian efforts. There are reports that Spain is not happy

with the site, which is constantly under artillery fire. The unexpected setbacks have underlined the weaknesses in organisation at the UN, which lacks any form of military contingency planning capability.

The British party, including Lieutenant Colonel Bob Stewart, commander of the Cheshire Regiment which is to be sent to Bosnia, has been trying for a week to get through to Tuzla. The many Serbian roadblocks north and north-west of the town have convinced the British military authorities that it will be impractical to run a convoy route through the Serbian frontlines. A southern route will now be charted.

The failure to reach the area earmarked for Britain's 1,800 troops will delay their arrival. None of the detailed planning for the deployment of the British troops can begin until the reconnaissance party has

returned, but this is now not expected until at least the end of this week.

In the United States, General Colin Powell, chairman of the UN joint chiefs of staff, yesterday brought to the surface the tensions in the Bush administration over American policy towards Bosnia. In an interview with *The New York Times* he questioned the need to impose an air-exclusion zone, declaring that Serbian aircraft had done no more than "shadow" UN relief flights without posing a threat.

He also vigorously opposed Baroness Thatcher's suggestion that the West should undertake limited and surgical air strikes to deter the Serbs from shelling Sarajevo and other towns. He said: "As soon as they tell me it is 'limited', it means that they do not care whether you achieve a result or not. As soon as they tell me 'surgical', I head for the bunker."

When marriage turns bloody

Should the law punish wives who are driven too far, asks Janet Daley

Men have an unfair advantage in the homicide stakes because there is a defence available to them when they murder their spouses which can scarcely ever apply to women. In this age of equal opportunities mania, such palpable injustice could not go unchallenged. The campaign to correct this inequality, of which we heard much last year during the Sara Thornton case, has been revived by the freeing last week of Kiranjit Ahluwalia.

If men are provoked into thoughtless violence which results in the death of their female partners, they may plead that loss of self-control releases them from responsibility for their actions. But women, even when provoked, are not physically capable of murder in a spontaneous fit of rage and thus almost never find themselves able to use the defence of "provocation". The fact that we must now be expected to excuse women's violence too, so that they will not be disadvantaged, is a testament to the influence of feminism on public debate. Or perhaps it is as much the final triumph of liberalism that we find nothing absurd in the idea that all groups in society should have an equal right to commit the ultimate crime, or to be let off once they have committed it. Those campaigning to change the law on provocation are asking the courts to treat men and women differently in a way which must, in the end, be damaging to the idea of female equality. It reinforces the stereotype of women as helpless, to argue that the only escape for a sane, adult wife might be through the murder of her captor. This is a free society. Only a woman depressed to the point of irrationality could see herself as a trapped slave.

To change the definition of what constitutes a crime like premeditated murder so that it means different things for different sexes or social groups is to create different classes of citizen and, what should be anathema to feminists, different degrees of moral responsibility for men and women.

The defence of provocation for men is a recognition of the obvious truth that men may genuinely lose control of their aggression and, with their superior physical strength, commit acts which they did not intend. Intention is the key to whether or not someone may be charged with murder. And intention is equated with forethought. For a woman to kill almost inevitably involves forethought since it requires the use of a weapon and this means that women who kill are almost always charged with murder. It also means that they kill less often.

To permit women to claim that they were provoked into killing their husbands even though the act was committed with forethought, would be to permit premeditated murder. It is no good saying, "But she couldn't have done it any other way." The object is not to give

everyone an equal crack at murder — to level the playing field so that we all get a fair chance at the goal. We are still in the business of trying to prevent the taking of life rather than inventing new ways to sanction it, aren't we?

What happened in last week's retrial of Mrs Ahluwalia is being taken as a victory by the "provocation" reform lobby although the defence of provocation played no part in the fact that she was freed by the court. The injustice in her case was clear: she should never have been charged with murder at all, but with manslaughter because the psychological state to which she had been reduced by her husband's mistreatment resulted in diminished responsibility. The court rectified this wrong and decided that the time she had already served was sufficient punishment for the manslaughter charge. This outcome could just as easily have occurred with a male defendant who had, say, been bullied by an employer to the extent that he was depressed and demoralised. From the feminist point of view, it is neither here nor there, and it certainly has no bearing on the question of provocation which was disallowed in this case just as it was in Sara Thornton's.

It is sexist to suggest that slow-burning, impotent resentment is exclusively female

Women who kill their violent husbands with forethought have certainly been provoked. They may even have committed a form of justifiable homicide. But they have not "acted under provocation". If we enlarge that concept to include what we are now being told is the typically female slow burn of anger, then we are legalising revenge killing. It is sexist to suggest that slow-burning, impotent resentment is exclusively female: it is an emotion familiar to many sensitive, powerless men, some of whom go on to commit carefully planned murder. Should they be allowed this expanded defence of provocation, or is it reserved for women?

Either way, what we would be saying is that victims of other people's cruelty are entitled to take the law into their own hands: if the cruelty was severe enough, then the crime is not murder, however premeditated it was.

There are two quite different problems which have become entangled in this debate. One is the victimisation of women by violent men. Protecting women from domestic violence is a matter of police attitudes and enforcement of the existing laws. It is a counsel of despair to say that the remedy for male brutality is to licence wives to commit murder.

Susceptible to quicker remedy is the mandatory life sentence for murder which means that the battered wife who kills out of desperation is treated in the same way as the psychopathic serial killer. The reform which we need is one which would allow every murder and its mitigating circumstances to be treated as an individual case, whatever the murderer's gender.



...and moreover

CRAIG BROWN

I was with the very greatest pleasure that I — Craig Brown from North Essex, attended the Annual Dinner of Late-Night Phone-In-Callers. You can always be sure of a really lively interchange of topical opinions and forthright views at this annual night out.

As we entered the dining room, the Chief Barker yelled out our names and current opinions. "Charles from Islington!" he shouted as the gentleman two in front of me moved to the head of the queue. "Hates the ERM, would never trust a Gerry, wants to know frankly who won the war and can recommend household bleach as an effective stain-remover!"

I noticed a slight hush as Charles from Islington trotted down the stairs into the dining-room. In the past few years, he has made quite a name for himself by expressing his frank and punchy views regularly on the Late-Night Phone-In Circuit. Indeed views of his such as "Frankly, there must be something in this Loch Ness Monster thing" and "who does that Jacques Delors think he is, then?" have earned him the respect of all his fellow phoners.

Within seconds, the Chief Barker was on to the next guest. "Deirdre from Staines!" he belted. "Thinks British Rail an absolute disgrace, would never do the Queen's job, not for a million pounds and much preferred Mrs Major as she was!"

As you probably know, Deirdre from Staines is also something of a name to conjure with in the world of the phone-in. She got her big break at 3.15 in the morning on LBC in September 1992. There was a temporary fault on the line to Richard from Woking, the then unknown Deirdre from Staines was given an amazing four minutes 15 seconds on how she would put the Great Back in Britain, and the rest is history. Deirdre from Staines has now spoken on over 220 phone-ins nationwide, on subjects as diverse as the Channel Tunnel ("you wouldn't catch me in there, I can tell you") and Fergie ("Frankly, I never felt comfortable with her, not ever") and she is currently putting the finishing touches to her views on South Africa ("high time they all got round a table and did something about it") for the forthcoming autumn season of Call Nick Ross on Radio 4.

The soup course went very smoothly, though Ken from Tring, the home of the phone-in, had strong opinions about the "crying need" for a truly effective soup-spoon, and Rob from Aberdeen said that it was "a well known fact that at least 40 per cent of most soup is just water", suggesting that it was high time that this so-called government took effective action.

The main course — roast chicken and two veg — gave rise to a three-way discussion between Rob from Aberdeen, Deirdre from Staines and Charles from Islington on the rights and wrongs of factory farming. "Let's put the Great Back in Britain," said Deirdre. "There must be something in this factory thing," said Charles, sticking his neck

out. Rob thought it high time this so-called government took effective action. "It was just as the cheese arrived [I] trust this cheese is pasteurised in strict accordance with government standards," said Charles, that I realised that everyone around the table was single. "I was married once, to June from Dulwich," said Ken from Tring. "But we couldn't agree on Britain's future in the ERM, so we thought it best to split. The children decided to go with June, but then they were always confirmed Euro-sceptics."

Deirdre from Staines had a similar tale of woe. "It was the Channel Tunnel that did it for us," she told me, ruefully. "My ex-husband — Stuart from Wisbech, you've probably heard him — always claimed in the privacy of our own home that he fully supported my brave stand against this monstrous intrusion into our once-great island. But then I turned on the kitchen radio one morning and who did I hear? It was Stuart, calling from upstairs, declaring to Nick Ross that the Channel Tunnel was a triumph of technological know-how, a beacon for international goodwill. The minute he got off that phone, I was onto my lawyers. He's now seeing Peggy from Worsop, but everyone knows where she stands on EC farm subsidies, so I don't give it long."

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"I'd never let anyone come between me and my opinions," nodded Rob from Aberdeen. "And if they did, I'd say it was high time this so-called government took action."

Both Labour and Tories ignore the underclass, the moral failure of our time

Yesterday, in Blackpool, speaking for Labour's National Executive Committee, Tom Sawyer told delegates what was wrong with their party. He quoted an engineering workmate: "Tom, we're going up. Labour only cares about people going down." To win, we all chorus, Labour must change that.

Seven years ago, when an MP, I wrote an article in *The Times* about three pathetic young hitchhikers to whom I had given a lift up the M1. Mr Sawyer's chum would have identified them as "going down". They made a strong impression and I wrote about it.

"The ginger-haired boy had sunken cheeks, a pasty face, and many studs in his nose and ears. He looked as though he wouldn't get up if you knocked him down. The blond boy looked as though he would have run away before you had time to hit him."

I still remember his careworn face and nervous eyes. I have learned since to recognise, in the old-young features of those we call inadequate, the mark left by terrific anxiety in childhood. Busy, rich, successful people sometimes assume that at the bottom of the heap one could at least relax. "It's tough at the top" we say. But the haunted faces of the deprived suggest strain of an intensity we scarcely know. It's tough at the bottom actually.

I helped them spell "Liverpool" on a piece of cardboard before leaving them at Watford Gap. They had never been north of London, had little idea how to find the person they knew and hoped to stay with on Merseyside, and no idea where, or how big, Liverpool was. They were looking for "a spot of bother". They would probably get caught. I left them with a heavy heart.

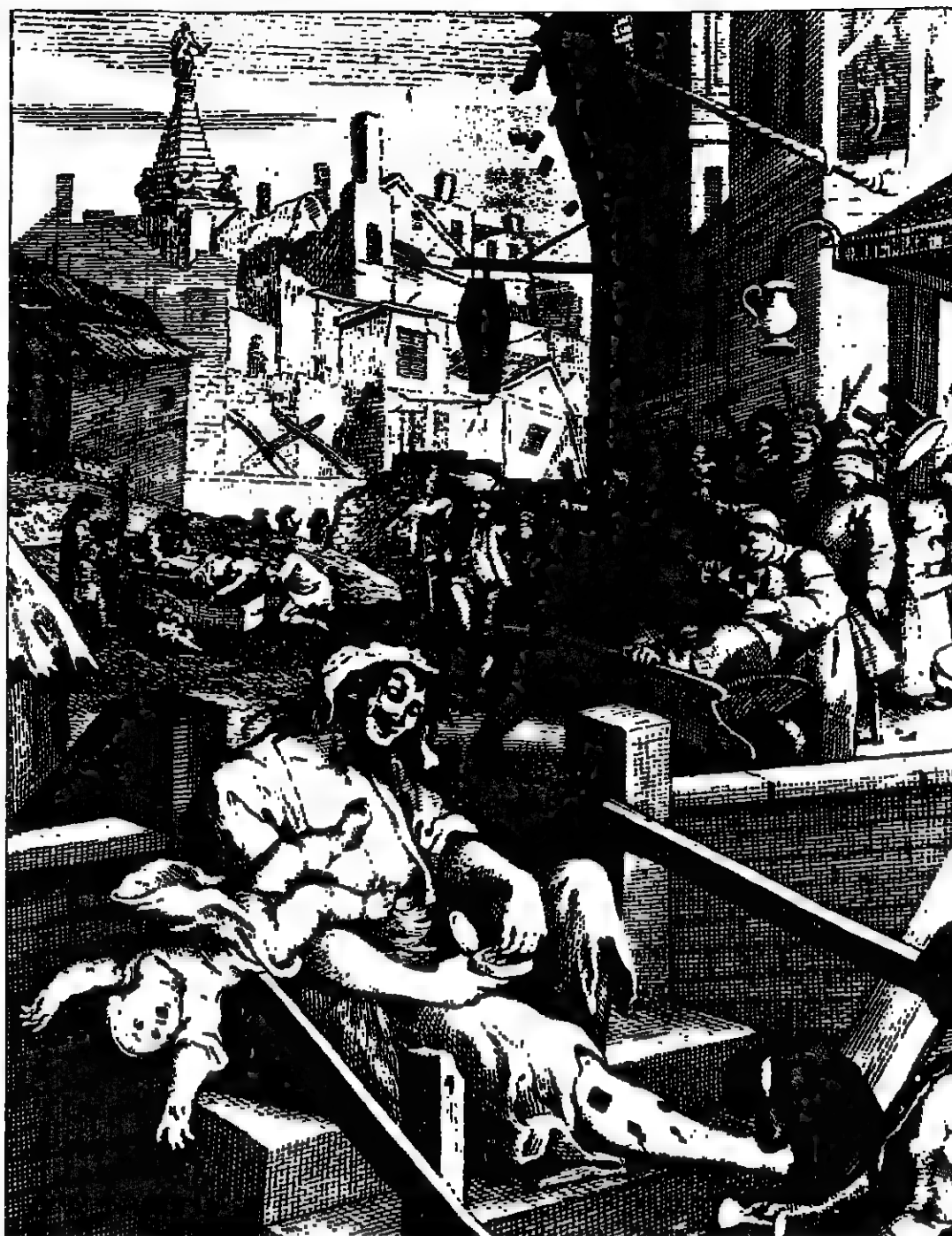
"My three passengers were not very bad people, nor were they at all good — nor 'misunderstood', nor 'interesting' nor 'worthwhile underneath'. They were shallow and underdeveloped and, most of all, they were weak. Yet they were capable of all kinds of harm... The gross cost to the state of each of their lives will be staggering: but it will be paid and they will be contained, and that is the happy — or sad? — truth of it."

That article, "Going Nowhere", was about those at the bottom of the heap, and their hopelessness. We have since coined a fashionable term, "the underclass", but the facts and the people remain the same. I simply ask: who cares? Where now is the constituency of the deprived? Is it really on the left any more? Do these people even vote? The opposition parties need the underclass like a hole in the head.

Their politicians will know that concentrating on losers only dulls a party's shine among the upwardly aspirational voter it needs to attract. By "underclass" I do not mean the less well-off. I do not mean those on below average earnings, the bottom half, the bottom third, the bottom quarter — no, not even the bottom tenth. I mean no more than one in 50 — a million people, perhaps. How do I identify that 2 per cent? Not by income alone. Although almost all of them must be very poor, there are millions of others on basic incomes who are not a social problem and whose condition, while uncomfortable, is not wretched. I do not call such people the underclass. They keep their heads above water and their lives have shape and hope: they can, and many of them will, move up as well as down, when circumstances change or life-chances come their way.

What shall we do about the poor?

Matthew Parris on how poverty became a dirty word



Hogarth's Gin Lane: our attitude to despair and depravity has changed little in two centuries

I say this — many would challenge it — in the belief that the state provision is a viable floor, for people who are able to stand, to stand upon. But social or psychological damage can leave people in too much of a mess to manage on what the state provides, use help, or take chances that may be offered. It is a depressing group to work with. Not — as a generalisation — nice people, not deserving or virtuous. Anything but ready to take advantage of an even break.

They are not, for the most part, satisfying as clients. Their lives are in pieces and their inadequacies are wrecking the lives of the children they begot and parent with helpless abandon. I believe this is, in a necessarily imprecise way, a group identifiable by criteria other than income alone.

Perhaps 2 per cent of the population, they occupy three-quarters

of the problem community estates, half the prisons and two-thirds of the magistrates' courts. They take up much police time. They are an almost unbelievably expensive section of society, a running sore but in no sense life-threatening to the state. Anti-social and inadequate, they are not smart enough to co-operate, and much of their crime and aggression is directed at each other. These are the stuff of which smashed bus-shelters and battered children, not revolutions, are made. Spoilers not wreckers, we can live with them, chucking the aspirins of state welfare — free, bad housing and cigarette money at them — and hoping that indolence, stupidity and television, will keep them out of too much harm.

But is all we can do? What are the limits to our generosity? In my estimation the charity of the British electorate would and will carry a few million of the weakest of

its countrymen — a few per cent. But it will not carry 10, 20, 30, 40 per cent. Those on the left who have tried to load more bodies in the welfare lifeboat than the vessel will bear deserve a share of the blame for the cold-hearted cynicism with which Britons now approach any claim on their conscience from those less advantaged than they.

If, now, we are to weigh what it would be practicable and affordable to do in order to break cycles of depravity and deprivation among the inadequate, we must start by making a clear distinction between underclass and lower class. Statistical sleights of hand which have pointed to that great mass of the population living on an income below the median line and called it "poverty", have done the most enormous injury to the very poorest. They have brought the whole concept of deprivation into the mire, dragging it into the

twilight world of half-truth and political weaselly. Spokesmen from the poverty lobbies and politicians from the left are particularly in blame. Poverty lobbyists, often to reinforce their own status and careers, have tried to enlarge the constituency of what they call "the needy" or "desperate", hugely inflating its numbers to the point of discrediting the very words. If you stretch anything too wide, it breaks. Most Britons will not accept that (in their use of the term) a quarter, or a third, of their countrymen are "poor".

Socialist politicians have used the Trojan horse of "urgent need" to conceal their hidden ambitions for general income redistribution. There may be a case for further income redistribution: that is for ideological debate. But those on the left who have muddled wealth and equalisation with the argument about helping the small minority whose condition is truly pitiable, have done a real disservice to the weakest citizens of all: for the result has been that the British middle classes have heard the argument about poverty, noticed who is advancing it, smelt a rat, and looked away. Most, I judge, reject the argument for equalising society, but are ready to hear the argument for repairing an unequal society.

It is time for the Conservative party to repossess this argument. Ever since the post-war Labour victory, Tories have ceded to socialists the intellectual initiative over helping the poor. Put crudely, the thought has been that Labour are much in favour of it while the Tories are in favour, but not so much. Labour were there to be kind, the Tories to be careful. Nobody, it seemed, was there to think. Labour have posited an ambition — and the Tories have halved it.

And the debate has been all about sums. The quality and strategy of the campaign has been defined mostly from the left, mostly in terms of straight cash handouts. It has sledged into general income redistribution, failed its beneficiaries and exhausted its benefactors, and come a terminal cropper. The left have now lost their authority (indeed the opposition have lost their interest) in this debate.

I think the Tories have a moral responsibility to revive it. To do so will anger libertarians and worry Treasury ministers but to both I offer this thought. If, as I suggest, we can get away from the argument that there is a simple equation between income and need — the "neediest" being just the bottom x per cent — then we have escaped a powerful Conservative objection to welfare. The objection is that there is no natural limit to the relief of comparative poverty: but helping the poorest creates new demands all the way up the line, raising stakes but never removing "the bottom x per cent".

My thought is that we define our target group differently, and in more subtle ways, which must include delinquent or inadequate behaviour as well as the income of the individual or family. My further thought is that this group is quite distinctive, finite, and rather small, though helping it will be enormously expensive per capita.

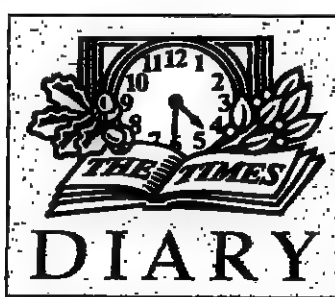
My final thought is that just giving such people money will solve little: many personalities will prove resistant or even untraceable: that breaking the parent-child cycle of disorder will have to be a priority; and that some difficult judgments and possible infringements of liberty may arise... not a programme, just some thoughts. It is time they began.

And then there's wealth creation

BARONESS Thatcher's £9.5 million, revealed in the list of Britain's wealthiest women this week, may seem modest in comparison with the vast wealth of Britain's aristocracy. When one realises the fortune has been amassed almost exclusively since she left office less than two years ago, the sum becomes considerably more impressive.

The Thatcher millions have not gone unnoticed among her former colleagues. One junior minister entertaining three bankers earlier this year griped over the brashly about the rapidly-growing Thatcher millions. His guests assumed he was discussing the Thatcher Foundation. "I mean the money in her own handbag," the minister retorted.

"The Thatcher Foundation, which for tax reasons is based in Switzerland, should not be confused with her personal wealth and earnings," says Kevin Cahill, who compiled the wealth list. Lady Thatcher's most loyal agent, her son Mark, is reported by local American papers to have sold his Dallas home and moved to Switzerland, where he has a penthouse apartment overlooking Lake Geneva. Yesterday Lady Thatcher's office refused to comment on the reports but the number they provided for Mark Thatcher's office in Dallas was out of operation. Lady Thatcher's office also refused to comment on her personal wealth and would not say in which country the former prime minister files her income tax return. "It is a private matter," says a spokeswoman.



US and the Far East". If she continues to earn at the rate she has done since leaving office — and some reports now suggest Lady Thatcher can earn £1 million in a single month — she will rapidly rise from her humble position at number 134 in the list. On current form expect her to overtake the Queen Mother sometime next year.

Barbara Castle proved she has lost none of her celebrated fighting spirit as she arrived in Blackpool this week. Settling into the back of a taxi at the railway station, Baroness Castle, 81, directed the driver to her hotel. But the driver, with his meters switched off, insisted on trying to cram further passengers into the car. When Castle objected, her suitcases were dumped on the pavement and she was ordered out of the car. Castle may have mellowed with age, but not much. "Young man," boomed the unmistakable tones. "Put those bags back. Do as you are told. And do it now." Of the same followed in vintage Castle style and she was soon on her way without the additional passengers.

Teachers' favourite AS Neil Kinnock found a new role in Blackpool yesterday. Charles Clarke, his former chief aide, may also be about to find employment. Clarke's name is being linked with

the post of general secretary of the 31,000-strong Association of University Teachers. Diana Warwick stands down from the job tomorrow.

Clarke's main rival for the post is Neil Stewart, another former key figure in Kinnock's office. The two men have similar credentials, both having served as presidents of the National Union of Students. The burly Clarke is much in evidence in Blackpool this week, enjoying his first conference in many years without the burden of office and playing down talk of the AUT job. But sources insist that Clarke remains the favourite.

Since the election of John Smith, Clarke, who worked for Kinnock from 1981 and would have become chief-of-staff in Downing Street had Labour won, has been unemployed. He has talked of becoming a parliamentary lobbyist but many feel Clarke's bluff, no nonsense style would ideally suit him to the AUT job. John Patten has rejected the university teachers' pay deal and the new union leader, who will be appointed next month, will be on an inevitable collision course with the government — a position Clarke will surely relish.

Out of sight...

THERE was some surprise among his guests last night that Jeremy Isaacs had chosen the London Fields gallery in Hackney rather than the plush surroundings of the Crush Bar at Covent Garden, to celebrate his 60th birthday. Perhaps his decision is more understandable in view of today's board meeting at the Royal Opera House which is due to consider the renewal of Isaacs' contract.

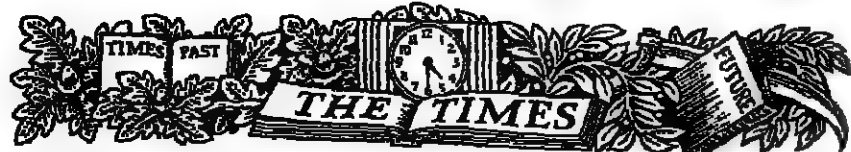
Angus Stirling, the chairman of Covent Garden, missed the party, detained by the first night of *Fidelio* at the House. Bamber Gascoigne was present, however, repre-

senting the board. But the question on most lips was would Isaacs take the opportunity to invite Peter Brooke, the new National Heritage Secretary? He had a difficult relationship with David Mello and the party could have helped to establish better relations with his successor. "We are unaware of any invitation from Mr Isaacs," said a spokesman for Brooke yesterday. "Do you think he is meant to be there?"

Nigel Lawson and the journalist John Diamond took even closer friends by surprise when they quietly wed in Venice on Friday. But the city is, after all, the romantic capital of Europe and as Lawson, the daughter of the former chancellor, was on holiday in Italy with her partner it seemed like a good idea.



Yet the Italian authorities are not easily persuaded to marry foreigners and the Foreign Office felt it could not assist. So how did they do it? "I persuaded them because I had lived in Italy as a teenager," says Lawson. The rumour that the couple had met in Venice may have helped, too. Friends say that over the copying machine at The Sunday Times is probably a better bet.



ENDING THE EURO-SCHISM

Two separate questions have become confused in Britain's post-devaluation debate over the economy and Europe. Should Britain ratify the Maastricht treaty? And should sterling rejoin the exchange-rate mechanism? These are best seen as distinct issues, but in the feverish atmosphere of last week's recall of Parliament, they have been rolled together into a crude litmus test: are you for or against "Europe"?

Even a few days have produced dire results. The cabinet and the Conservative party are splitting over irrelevances instead of uniting to seize the opportunities presented by freedom from the ERM. A prime minister who not long ago won a great electoral triumph seems to be losing his grip on power.

No miracle is needed to heal the great European schism, only some clear thinking. To pull his party and government back together Mr Major must recognise two realities. First, withdrawal from the ERM has transformed Britain's economic prospects. Secondly, life outside the ERM has transformed Britain's relationship with Europe and the significance of the Maastricht treaty for that relationship. Until September 16, ERM membership, Maastricht ratification and domestic monetary policy were bound together. This need no longer be so.

Mr Major owes the British people a referendum on the Maastricht accord. It would provide an excellent opportunity to air complex arguments about fixed exchange rates and federalism, subsidiarity and their economic impact.

The bad news is that he seems still implacably opposed to that course. The good news is that if he insists on helping his European partners by moving to ratify the Maastricht treaty, he can at least do so with the minimum further damage to the economy.

During any ratification debate, fears about federalism encroaching on Britain's political sovereignty would have to be addressed separately through clearer definitions of subsidiarity and restrictions on central decision-making, as Denmark is

already demanding. Provided Mr Major made clear that he would not re-enter the ERM in the foreseeable future, ratification would have little or no effect on Britain's new freedom of economic manoeuvre.

The British government said from the beginning that its main objective in negotiating the treaty was to protect Britain from the excesses of Euro-federalist ambition. In principle, this was to some extent achieved through the opt-outs and restrictions on European Community competence painstakingly negotiated by Mr Major. But in practice, there were justifiable doubts about the possibility of exercising Mr Major's opt-outs, so long as Britain remained in the ERM. The Danish referendum also cast doubt on the adequacy of the safeguards against centralisation that Mr Major had demanded in the text of the treaty.

As long as the government believed that the pound must be stabilised for ever at its ERM parity of DM2.95, movement towards EMU was the only logical result, regardless of opt-outs. While Britain was in the ERM, therefore, ratification of Maastricht was rightly seen by both Euro-sceptics and Euro-enthusiasts as the decisive battle in which the future of Britain's relationship with Europe would be settled.

All of these calculations have now been transformed. Maastricht may still be critical to France, Germany and Belgium, but as long as sterling is kept outside the ERM, it is not so critical for Britain.

Once Mr Major has made an unequivocal promise that Britain will not rejoin the ERM in the foreseeable future, he can argue that Maastricht is no longer a crucial matter in itself. He would be acknowledging that ERM membership makes sense only as the penultimate step on the road to an irrevocable monetary and political union.

Mr Major must promise that sterling will not go back into any European currency system unless the people of Britain decide to be part of a federal European state. As the inadequate process of parliamentary ratification draws nearer, this promise should be the Euro-sceptics' price for ratifying the flayed corpse of Maastricht.

BEYOND OPTING OUT

The opprobrium of the education world is piling up in John Patten's office following Friday's deadline for responses to his white paper on schools. Yesterday's opposition from the National Union of Teachers was only to be expected, but even the grant-maintained schools themselves have expressed doubts about the government's plans for a new framework for state education. Mr Patten put a brave face on his isolation yesterday when addressing a CBI conference on the white paper, but he will know better than anybody the extent of the criticism heaped on certain key proposals.

There is a danger, however, that the debate on the future of the education service will become merely a sterile exchange on the merits of opting out. However justified the criticisms of centralisation were, there is little doubt that opting out is here to stay. Labour almost admitted this soon after the election, though it may revert to a hard line in Blackpool this week. Although the expected avalanche of applications for grant-maintained status has yet to appear, the sector will be too large for any government to abolish by the time this Parliament has run its course. This government has a clear mandate to press ahead with opting out, and many schools are only waiting to hear the details of the new arrangements.

Opting out has to be made to work in tandem with the local education authorities if state schools are to meet the ambitious targets set by ministers. For good or ill, the days of a monolithic education system are over. Mr Patten tried in his white paper to piece together a system from the patchwork left by his predecessors, proposing to share responsibility in the delicate area of school admissions and forcing grant-maintained status on only those schools deemed to have

failed under local authority stewardship. In trying to square the circle, however, he has created further uncertainty at a time when the education service yearns for nothing more than stability. Parents cannot be certain from year to year which body will control their children's destiny, and can have little confidence that organisations with little in common but mutual mistrust will be able to work together.

Mr Patten would do well to listen to the head teachers, who are lobbying for maximum control of their own budgets while education authorities survive, and a clean break where town halls have lost the confidence of most parents. Better such a solution than the lingering death envisaged for the authorities in the white paper. Shocked into action by the threat of opting out, many authorities are once becoming the responsive, consumer-led organisations they should always have been. Opting out may still appeal to thriving, well-managed schools with parental expertise on tap, but others will be reluctant to sacrifice the knowledge and experience of local education officers. Indeed, the failing schools that will be forced to opt out under Mr Patten's proposals may be least able to do without such support.

If the white paper's title of *Choice and Diversity* is to mean anything, both routes should be allowed. There is more consensus over education than meets the eye. The principles behind the national curriculum and greater management autonomy for schools are well accepted. What matters most for pupils is not the detail of the bureaucratic structure of the education system, but the restoration to state schools of a feeling of ownership and local pride.

NOUVELLE CUISINE ANGLAISE

A *bombe surprise* is being dished up to the foodies of England today, with the decision by the *The Good Food Guide* to demote one of the Roux brothers' restaurants to a third-class rating. This will be as much of a shock to those Elysian pastures of class browsing and snuffing, as though on an earlier pitch Newcastle United were to be demoted to the GM Vauxhall Conference — a cataclysm that has seemed possible in the past, though mercifully not so far this season.

The Roux brothers are the Frenchmen who formed part of a revolution in English attitudes to food 30 years ago. Before they came over, eating was often felt to be a shameful activity to be performed in the decent privacy of an Englishman's home — or failing that in a hotel approximating as close as possible to the Englishman's home — in silence, with gravy, custard, over-stewed "greens" (a recipe invented for English false teeth and phobia about constipation), and other dismal appurtenances.

In the 1960s the Roux brothers and their peers introduced to Britain the novel notion that food was one of the pleasures of life, and that it is nowhere written down in *Magna Carta* that *les anglais s'amusent tristement selon l'usage de leur pays*. Two of their restaurants are the only two in Britain to be awarded the top mark of three stars by Michelin, the French *Almanach de Gotha* of the eating arts. One of these, the Waterside Inn at Bray, has today been downgraded by one of the freelance British food inspectors set up in imitation of Michelin. As downgradings go, this is not as veridical a fall as Lucifers, being merely from

"excellent cooking" to "a particularly fine example of very good cooking". But for the superstars of *haute cuisine* and their gourmet fans who are prepared to pay £100 for a three-course meal before wine and fazy water (and for the publicity machine and snobbery that keep them all shimmering) this is a serious blow.

The changes in the British attitude to eating out over the past generation have been categorical and beneficial. Bistros-eating has spread from Aberystwyth to Middlesbrough, and Britain has developed its own *curry cuisine*, as distinctive as the American Chinese. All but the most macho pubs (mainly in the West of Scotland) now serve bar snacks of considerable ambition, even though most of them, *pace* the advertisements, are heated up by microwave rather than home-cooked. Chips tasting of cardboard are no longer obligatory with everything, except in motorway service stations; and the obsession with health has vastly improved the British attitude to greens.

There is no need to go the whole hog with the French in treating food as a substitute for religion. Yet there is no love more sincere than the love of food. The British attitude to these things needs to be empirical and cool, as the French is theoretical and windily metaphysical. The improvement in British food, from the top, encouraged by cooks like the Roux brothers, to the lowliest greasy spoon café, is wholesome. But the upsurge about subjective and spurious star-ratings of overpriced restaurants, visited mainly on expense accounts, leaves a sour taste.

Commonwealth library threat

From the High Commissioners for Uganda, Belize, Western Samoa, Cyprus and New Zealand and the Acting High Commissioner for Pakistan

Sir, As High Commissioners representing different regions of the Commonwealth, we are dismayed that the Royal Commonwealth Society's Library is at risk and could be broken up and dispersed around the world because of the financial difficulties it faces.

We wish to state how important this unique collection is to all our countries and to the Commonwealth. It must be saved and placed in the public domain for ever. It is, quite simply, irreplaceable.

An appeal to save this unique collection will be launched tomorrow by Sir Patrick Sheehy and his fellow library trustees, and we urge that their efforts be met with firm financial support. We believe that the Commonwealth is a power for good in today's turbulent world — this library explains why.

Yours etc.,
GEORGE KIRYA (Uganda),
ROBERT LESLIE (Belize),
A. TOLEAFOA (Western Samoa),
ANGELOS ANGELOS (Cyprus),
GEORGE GAIR (New Zealand),
KHALID M. SHAH (Acting High Commissioner, Pakistan),
Uganda High Commission,
Uganda House,
58 Trafalgar Square, WC2,
September 28.

London clean-up

From Dame Shirley Porter

Sir, Making our cities clean, affordable and attractive to tourists is as important as any other long-term investment for the future prosperity of this country.

For when we emerge from recession I suspect that many people will prefer to spend their income enjoying themselves rather than buying assets which land them in debt and go down as well as up in value.

Tourism is London's biggest industry. Thousands of jobs and companies depend on it. Keeping cities clean isn't easy. It took ten years to turn the tide in Westminster. We ran campaigns for a cleaner city, provided more litter bins than anywhere else in the UK, sponsored our own acts of Parliament, launched the Perfect Street, and dozens of other schemes.

We enrolled schoolchildren, hoteliers, businesses and over 5,000 local citizens in a task force against litter. Now that the city is clean hopefully it can be kept clean.

The top priorities for the future must include improving public transport, providing more low-cost hotel accommodation and ensuring that our city looks attractive the whole year round.

This year's disastrous decision — or lack of co-ordination — to cloak major tourist attractions in unsightly hoardings during the peak summer season must never be repeated. If London is to win more tourists it must deserve to do so.

Yours sincerely,
SHIRLEY PORTER
(Leader, Westminster City Council, 1983-91),
4 The Chambers,
St James's Court Hotel,
Buckingham Gate, SW1,
September 15.

Control of squirrels

From Viscount Ridley

Sir, Your excellent leading article on squirrels ("Reds versus greys", September 9) deserves stronger support than that of your correspondent Mr Alan Morris (letter, September 15). Writing from Sussex, he cannot have seen many red squirrels.

Here in Northumberland, almost the last refuge of the red squirrel in England, we still have a very high population of reds. Despite our numbers and an abundance of forestry the Northumberland Wildlife Trust knows of no example of damage to trees by them.

The only real threat to the red is the grey, advancing north through Durham and Cumbria and south from the Borders at about six miles a year. Once the grey arrives, the red inevitably disappears. We are waging a campaign to stem this alien tide and have aroused considerable public support.

Government promises of financial help for threatened native species by the last Secretary of State for the Environment and a willingness to listen to the need for new legislation to permit the selective and humane use of poison in the north of England and Scotland will be as valuable to our cause as was your timely leader.

Yours,
RIDLEY (Patron,
Northumberland Wildlife Trust),
House of Lords,
September 15.

Business letters, page 23

Letters to the editor that are intended for publication should carry a day-time telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 071-782 5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Issues of judgment and ethics raised by Mellor case

From the Master of St Catharine's College, Cambridge

Sir, In his comments on the Mellor affair Simon Jenkins asks (article, September 26), in relation to political "freebies", whether the invoice of every ministerial holiday (and every civil service one) is now to be scrutinised for years past. The answer, surely, is that they ought to be.

For two years the incompetence and dogmatism of this government have imposed the most horrendous suffering on the British people. The hundreds of thousands who have lost jobs and businesses and homes, who have been reduced to penury and insecurity, so that they cannot afford to live decent lives, let alone holiday for four weeks in Marbella, are entitled to ask that those who have thrust them into distress should live lives of some sobriety, and not revel in luxury and waste — at no matter whose expense.

In an earlier letter (July 24) I suggested that any escape from the government's economic misjudgments and doctrinaire policies would necessitate ministers acting honourably to help their country, I was wrong. They have changed course without honour.

They may now wish to hang on to their jobs at no matter what cost to their dignity and reputation, or to Britain's international standing. But they could at least be seen to comport themselves with some material restraint.

Yours faithfully,
BARRY SUPPLE,
The Master's Lodge,
St Catharine's College,
Cambridge,
September 26.

From Mr John Mendes

Sir, Now that the unfortunate Mr Mellor has fallen on his sword it is not time that we buried one and for all the quaint notion that a public man's private life is no concern of the public? Senior politicians have the power to make radical changes to the way of life of millions of their fellow citizens. Is it really so much to ask that in return we

the people should know a little more about the life-styles of our political masters than they care to reveal in their smug election literature with the photographs of the ever-smiling wife and obligatory 2.8 children?

There is a price to pay for success in almost every field of human endeavour and the price for the ambitious, high-profile politician is that he must sacrifice much personal privacy. If he cannot make this sacrifice, and blames all his misfortunes on the small-format newspapers, he should seriously consider Harry Truman's advice about the kitchen.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN MENDES,
1 Lower Street, Cavendish, Suffolk,
September 24.

From Miss Jane Killick

Sir, The Bishop of Peterborough's article (September 25) praising the courage of David Mellor must be welcomed by many. If other leading churchmen had expressed such views over the last few months, perhaps we would not have lost a "Secretary of State committed to and with a deep understanding of the arts" (letter, same day).

Yours faithfully,
JANE KILICK,
32 Bridge Street,
Hadhfield, Ipswich, Suffolk,
September 25.

From Mr Alan Ducker

Sir, The Bishop of Peterborough says that "... the only question which should have been asked about Mr Mellor is the one about his abilities and effectiveness as a minister and member of cabinet".

I beg to differ. Mr Mellor was sent to Parliament in a position of trust. He has been shown as untrustworthy, not least to his family. That's why he had to go.

Yours faithfully,
A. B. DUCKER,
3 Allenby, Lansdown Road,
Bath, Avon.

Coming to the defence of scientific research councils

From Ms Joanna M. Tudor

Sir, Dr K. A. McLaughlin, FRGS, refers to a lack of democracy in the research councils (letter, September 17). The scenario he describes is certainly not true for the way grants committees operate within the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC).

Between four and ten referees are approached for each application, depending on the size of the grant requested. Applicants are invited to nominate two of these.

The remaining referees are identified by committee secretaries, who are scientifically qualified in the subject areas of their committees and who use an extensive database as well as advice from all the members of their committees.

Selection of chairmen and committee membership within the NERC is not entrusted to research council officers and committee chairmen. Nominations emerge as a result of a long and well established consultative process and appointments are made by council.

Dr McLaughlin also suggests that eminent scientists who spend a lot of time overseas are unable to serve on

committees. Most of our UK committee members are working scientists who enjoy international respect and travel abroad frequently. Grants meetings occasionally have to be missed, but in these cases written committees are normally provided.

It is also our policy to include overseas representatives on grants committees to ensure that applications are judged from an international perspective.

Yours sincerely,
JOANNA TUDOR
(Committee Secretary,
Higher Education Affairs),
Natural Environment
Research Council,
Polaris House,
North Star Avenue,
Swindon, Wiltshire,
September 23.

From Professor A. R. Fersht, FRGS

Sir, It is neither fair nor productive to make a blanket condemnation of the research councils. The Medical Research Council, for example, is a model institution. The boards, which are responsible for the review of

From Mr William L. M. Conner

Sir, The Bishop of Peterborough writes of "the doubtful moral attitude of a country without religion" and of the "fit of public morality" that brought down Mr Mellor.

When a bishop uses such terms in a matter of this kind, what hope is there for the survival of either Christian or family values in our nation?

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM CONNER,
60 Elm Park Road,
Chelsea, SW3,
September 26.

From the Headmaster of the Purcell School

Sir, I was at the Yehudi Menuhin School last weekend when Mr David Mellor addressed those of us attending the biennial specialist music seminar. I am sure that many of my colleagues will share my frustration and dismay that as able a man has been forced to resign as a result of being pilloried by some of the tabloid press.

I was impressed by Mr Mellor's knowledge of the musical world, his quick perception of the key issues and his determination to champion the cause of the arts in this country. His departure is a serious blow.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN BAIN
(Headmaster,
The Purcell School,
Oakhurst, Mount Park Road,
Harrow on the Hill, Middlesex,
September 25.

From Mr David Matthews

Sir, By comparing his departure to Captain Oates's sacrifice (report, September 26) is Mr Mellor predicting the same fate for the government as befell Captain Scott's expedition?

Yours faithfully,
DAVID MATTHEWS,
88 Avondale Road,
South Croydon,
Surrey,
September 28.

grants, consist quite simply of the best scientists available, who appear to be chosen on grounds of quality rather than geopolitics.

The administrators are knowledgeable, enthusiastic PhDs. Those who deal with the management of grants are generally younger ones who have only recently left research and are well aware of the needs of scientists.

I have had just a passing acquaintance with the Agriculture and Food Research Council. Its director is still one of the most productive and outstanding active scientists in the country and its scientific board appears to be well chosen.

Those organisations are relatively small. It was most fortunate that recent proposals to merge the research councils fell through. A monolithic single research council could well have the deficiencies noted by Dr McLaughlin.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN FERSHT,
Cambridge University
Chemical Laboratory,
Lensfield Road,
Cambridge,
September 17.

Boarding schools

From Mr James Waghorn

Sir, "Constant pleading to be allowed to board" is not, in itself, a justification for sending a young child to boarding school (Clare Hampson's letter, September 25). Moreover, children should be able "to be who they really are" within the context of their own family and home community without resorting to an artificial society for so much of their childhood.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES WAGHORN,
Southwark, Cargreen,
Salisbury, Cornwall,
September 26.

From Miss Isabel Mant

Sir, I read Bronie Flecker's defence of boarding schools with interest (letter, September 25). I imagine that she knows as little about my state comprehensive and sixth-form college education as I do about hers at Marlborough.

The point is that her "wealth of opportunities", as described, sound exactly like mine. What this has to do with boarding is not clear to me.

Yours faithfully,
ISABEL MANT (student),
Vardean Sixth-form College,
Surrenden Road,
Brighton, East Sussex.

From Mr Christopher Boulter

Sir, Mr E. G. F. Johnson writes (September 25) of the nomenclature of siblings in prep school, i.e., maximus, major, minor and minimus. I had always thought major, minor, tertius, quartus, quintus, sextus et al was the norm.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER BOULTER,
Magistrates' Clerk's Office,
Law Courts, County Civic Centre,
Mold, Chwyd,
September 28.

many years later. They should also remember that, at one time, the bribing of judges became a scandal. Part of the cure was to pay a salary, which removed temptation.

Some are known to have declined judicial appointment because they were unwilling to accept the financial penalty involved. The planned changes to judicial pensions to which Lord Ackner refers will make matters worse. If the trend is not stopped and reversed this country will get a second-rate judiciary, made up of those who were not good enough to succeed at the Bar. What will the position be in ten or 20 years' time? It is unthinkable that a judge should accept a bribe. Could it never happen again?

Yours faithfully,
S. GRATWICK,
11 South Square, Gray's Inn, WCI.

Judges' pensions

From Mr Stephen Gratwick QC

Sir, Lord Ackner's letter (September 25) should serve as a red light to those who propose to implement the Judicial Pensions and Retirement Bill, whose provisions he describes as a reduction in salary for judges and "parsimonious". I know of no walk of life in which the ultimate promotion is accompanied by severe financial penalty. The cabinet minister is paid more than the backbencher, yet the judge is far worse off after his appointment than he was at the Bar, and incomparably worse off than his coequals in industry or the professions.

Those who govern should never forget that there is an inertia in the affairs of mankind: the change made today may not show its full effect until

CAROL LEONARD

... Cromer routinely declared that Parliament and government shared responsibility

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COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

September 28: The Prince Edward, Trustee of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, today opened the Haking International Centre, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire.

His Royal Highness was received by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Hertfordshire (Mr Simon Bowes Lyon).

Mrs Richard Warburton was in attendance.

The Princess Royal, President, International Equestrian Federation, this afternoon held an Executive Board Meeting at Windsor Castle.

Her Royal Highness this evening attended the opening session of the Consultation on "The Rio Conference: Questions for Britain" followed by a Dinner at St George's House, Windsor Castle.

KENSINGTON PALACE
September 28: The Prince of Wales today visited Suffolk and was received by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Suffolk (Sir Joshua Rowley, Bt).

His Royal Highness attended an Agricultural Show at Winston, held on the occasion of the visit to the United Kingdom of the European Community Agriculture

Ministers, followed by Lunch at Helmingham Hall.

Commander Richard Aylard was in attendance.

This afternoon The Prince of Wales departed from Royal Air Force Waddington for a visit to Rome and Bologna.

Mr Peter Westmacott is in attendance.

The Princess of Wales this morning visited the West London Day Centre for single homeless and homeless people at 136 Seymour Place, London W1.

Mr Patrick Jephson was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
September 28: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon this afternoon visited the Decorative International 1992 Exhibition at Syon Park, Brentford.

The Lady Glenconner was in attendance.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
September 28: Princess Alexandra, Vice-President, and Sir Angus Ogilby this afternoon attended a Luncheon in aid of the Care in Crisis Fund of the British Red Cross at the London Hilton, Park Lane, London W1.

The Lady Mary Mumford was in attendance.

Today's royal engagements

The Princess of Wales, as Patron of the Guinness Trust, will visit the trust's home state at Stamford Hill at 11.20.

The Princess Royal, as Master of the Lord's Taverners, will attend a trade mission and finance committee meeting at Alderman's Court, Guildhall, at 9.30; as Patron of the Adult Literacy and Basic Skills Unit, will attend the annual conference at Glaziers' Hall at 12.45; will attend a presentation given by the Royal Naval Presentation Team at St James's Palace at 6.15 for the White Ensign Association; and, as President of Registered Engineers for Disaster Relief, will attend the annual working dinner for vice-presidents at the Institution of Civil Engineers at 8.00.

Princess Margaret will attend a reception given by the Air League at the RAF Club at 6.30.

The Duke of Gloucester will open St Auston Way, Leigh Park, Hampshire, at 11.25; will visit the Havant Housing Association, Maple House, Leigh Park, at 11.55; will open the new Park Community School, Leigh Park, at 12.15; and will open the new Southampton City Youth Training Centre, 18 Millbrook Street, Southampton, at 2.10.

The Duchess of Kent will open The Garden, a new home for the disabled, at Repton School, at 10.50; will visit the headquarters of the Disabled Persons Housing Service in Derby at noon; will open the Eagle Centre covered market and shopping centre in Derby at 12.35; and will visit the Royal School for the Deaf, Derby, at 1.10.

Memorial services

The Right Rev John Trillo
The Lord Lieutenant of Essex attended a service of thanksgiving for the life and work of the Right Rev John Trillo held yesterday in Chelmsford Cathedral. The Bishop of Chelmsford officiated and the Right Rev Thomas McMahon, Roman Catholic Bishop of Brentwood, led the prayers.

Mr David Trillo, son, and Canon Gordon Hewitt read the lessons. The Right Rev Derek Bond gave an address.

The Bishop of St Albans, the Bishop of Derby, the Bishop of Colchester, the Bishop of Barking, the Right Rev John Gibbs, the Right Rev R.N. Coons, the Right Rev James Roxburgh, the Right Rev James Adams, the Archdeacon of Colchester, the Archdeacon of Southend, the Archdeacon of Barking, the Ven Peter Bridge, the Dean of Bristol, the Provost, Chapter and non-residential canons of Chelmsford Cathedral and the Chancellor and the Registrar of the Chelmsford Diocese were robed and in the choir.

The High Sheriff of Essex, the Chairman of Essex County Council, the Mayor and Mayoress of Chelmsford and the Deputy Mayor of Colchester attended.

Mr Ursula Thorpe
A memorial service for Mrs Ursula Thorpe was held yesterday at St Andrew's, Linsford, Cambridgeshire. The Rev Sally Leeson officiated, assisted by the Rev Desmond Parsons.

His Honour Arthur Cohen read the lesson and the Bishop of Coventry gave an address.



Models wearing outfits nominated for designer of the year award at the V & A yesterday in the British fashion awards. The costumes were created by (from left) John Richmond, Vivienne Westwood, Rifat Ozbek and Catherine Walker

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Tintoretto, painter, Venice, 1518; Miguel de Cervantes, author of Don Quixote, Alcalá de Henares, Spain, 1547; François Boucher, painter, Paris, 1733; Robert Clive, Baron Clive of Plassey, Syche, Strathmore, 1725; Horatio Nelson, Viscount Nelson, Burnham Thorpe, Norfolk, 1758.

DEATHS: Émile Zola, novelist, Paris, 1902; Winslow Homer, painter, Prout's Neck, Maine, 1910; William Einthoven, physician, pioneer of electrocardiography, Nijmegen, Netherlands, 1924; Leland, 1927; Bruno Balmesfuter, cartoonist, Worcester, 1959; Canon McCullers, novelist, Nyack, New York, 1967; W.H. Auden, poet, Vienna, 1973.

Richard II, reigned 1377-99, was deposed by Henry Bolingbroke (Henry IV), 1399. The London police, remodelled by Sir Robert Peel, began duty, 1829. Munich agreement was signed 1938.

Clockmakers' Company

The following have been elected officers of the Clockmakers' Company for the ensuing year:

Master, Mr J.R. Cope, Senior Warden, Mr J.N.W. Smith; Renter Warden, Mr S.J. Thomas; Junior Warden, Mr J. Vernon; Marshal P.A. Latham.

Constructors' Company

The following have been elected officers of the Constructors' Company for the ensuing year:

Master, Mr Richard Roodley; Senior Warden, Mr Peter O'Leary; Middle Warden, Mr Denis Black; Junior Warden, Mr Philip Everett; Junior Warden, Mr Robert Wharton.

Latest wills

Sir Charles Bernard Groves, of north London, constructor, left estate valued at £280,142 net.

Captain John Cecil Cartwright, RN, of Sydling St Nicholas, Dorset, a former ADC to the Queen and Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod to the Parliament of Northern Ireland, left estate valued at £103,529 net.

Lieutenant Colonel Walter George Hingston, of Ramsbury, Wiltshire, soldier and author, left estate valued at £360,448 net.

Mr Jack Pople, of Addington, Surrey, left estate valued at £1,175,925 net.

Judge retires

Judge Aron Owen, aged 73, retired yesterday from the circuit bench of the South Eastern Circuit.

Birthdays today

Professor Sir Norman Anderson, QC, former director, Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, London University, 84; Signor Michelangelo Antonioni, film director, 80; Air Marshal Sir David Atkinson, 68; Lord Avebury, 64; Lord Justice Balcombe, 67; Mr Richard Bonyng, conductor, 52; Mr Chris Broad, cricketer, 52; Mr Sebastian Cox, MP and former athlete, 36; Mr Garth Davies, rugby player, 36; Mr John Davies, rugby coach, 36; Professor Dorothy Edwards, philosopher, 88; Mr Greville Gannon, actor, 84; Mr Carl Giles, cartoonist, 76; The Very Rev Andrew Horton, former Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, 83; Miss Patricia Hodge, actress, 46; Professor R.V. Jones, natural philosopher, 91; Mr H.N.L. Kewick, chairman, Matheson and Company, 54; Mr Jimmy Knapp, trades unionist, 52; Viscount Lambert, 80; Mr Murray McLagan, Lord Lieutenant of Mid Glamorgan, 63; Dr Colin Niven, headmaster, Alton School, 51; Canon Paul Oestreich, former chairman, British section, Amnesty International, 61; Sir Michael Partridge, civil servant, 57; Mr David Steele, cricketer, 51; Mr Peter Stormont, leading chairman, Mercury Asset Management Group, 60; Mrs Phyllis Taylor, educationist, 66; Dr Morag Timbury, director, Central Public Health Laboratory, 62; Mr Lech Walesa, President of Poland, 49.

Luncheons

Sheriffs of the City of London
Mr Alderman and Sheriff Roger Cork and Mr Sheriff Anthony Moss received the guests at the Sheriff's breakfast held yesterday at Plater's Hall, Lord Berran, Judge Verney, Mr Alderman Neil Young and Mr John R. Perring were among the speakers. Others present included:

The Hon Peter Brooke, MP, Lord Halsbury, Viscountess, Sir Talbot Perring, Mr Justice Swinton Thomas, Mr Justice Garland, The Queen's Bench, Mr Nicholas P. Ray, the Leonard Ashon, the President of the Law Society, members of the Court of Aldermen and Court of Common Council, members of the City of London Council, members of the City of London Corporation and officers of the Corporation of London.

Royal Overseas League
Mr Gary Stokes, acting Agent-General for Western Australia, and Mrs Stokes were the guests of honour at a luncheon given by the Royal Overseas League at Overseas House, St James's, yesterday.

Mr Peter McEneaney, chairman, and members of the Central Council were the hosts.

Service dinner

RAF Club Dining Society
Mr Donald Treford, Editor of The Observer, was the guest of honour at a dinner of the RAF Club Dining Society held last night at the club.

Meeting

Royal Overseas League
Mr Lesley Roberts, Director of the Anti-Slavery Society International, was the guest speaker at a meeting of the discussion circle of the Royal Overseas League held last night at Overseas House, St James's. Mr William West presided.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr P.N. Abbott and Miss C.L. Collingwood

The engagement is announced between Paul, second son of Mr Michael Abbott, of Wandsworth, London, and Mrs Anne Sudlow, of Tausley, Surrey, and Claire, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs John Collingwood, of Churt, Surrey.

Mr A.C. Barkham and Miss G.E.S. Hillier

The engagement is announced between Anthony, younger son of Mr and Mrs Roger Barkham, of Odilham, Hampshire, and Miss G.E.S. Hillier, of Carrickmines, Dublin and Mrs Neil Campbell-Sharp, of Manton, Wiltshire.

Mr E.D. Bourne and Miss L.M. Pulvercraft

The engagement is announced between Stanislas, elder son of Mr and Mrs Victor Bourne, of Buntingford, Cambridgeshire, and Lucy, younger daughter of Rear Admiral and Mrs David Pulvercraft, of Devon.

Mr I.A. Collins and Miss S.J. Nicholson

The engagement is announced between Ivan, son of Mr and Mrs Derek Collins, of Penarth, Kent, and Sarah, youngest daughter of the late Mr F.J. Nicholson and Mrs Moira Nicholson, of Sundridge, Kent.

Mr S. Culpeper and Miss C. Turvey

The engagement is announced between Steven, only son of Mr and Mrs R.W. Culpeper, of Harrow, Middlesex, and Caroline, only daughter of Mr and Mrs V.G.K. Turvey, of Walton-on-Thames, Surrey.

Mr C.S. Dyne and Miss E.V. Snape

The engagement is announced between Craig, only son of Mr Eric Dyne and Mrs Frances Jacobs, and Emma, younger daughter of the late Mr Donald Snape, of Ariba, and of Mrs Margaret Snape, of Bourneville, Dorset.

Captain R.A. Ross-Smith and Miss B.A.B. McCulloch

The engagement is announced between Russell Ross-Smith, The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment), son of Mr and Mrs A. Ross Smith, of Edinburgh, and Bernadette, second daughter of Mr and Mrs Andrew McCulloch, of Windsor, Berkshire.

Mr P.S. Rosh and Miss H.L. Brown

The engagement is announced between Philip Stephen Rosh, of Ballarat, Victoria, Australia, and Helen Lucy, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs H. Colin Brown, of Abbotmead, Gatcombe, Melrose, Roxburghshire.

Dr C. Shiro and Miss S. Edwards

The engagement is announced between Cado, son of Dr P.G. and Dr E. Shiro, of Milan, Italy, and Sarah, daughter of Mr and Mrs P.J.K. Edwards, of Norfolk.

Mr L.H.V. Thyme and Miss A.T. Sibley

The engagement is announced between Lucien, son of the late Lord Valentine Thyme and of Mrs Peter Learmonth, of Kensington, London, and Alice, daughter of Mr and Mrs Nicholas Sibley, of Deep Water Bay, Hong Kong.

Mr A.H. Westrop and the Hon Victoria Watson

The engagement is announced between Anthony Henry, younger son of the late Colonel L.H.M. Westrop and of Mrs Victoria Watson, of Wye, Kent, and Victoria Monica, youngest daughter of Lord and Lady Manton, of Houghton Hall, Sandon, York.

Marriages

The Hon Alexander Baring and Miss L.C. Fraser

The marriage took place at the Church of Holy Cross, Binsted, Hampshire, on September 26, of the Hon Alexander Baring, younger son of Lord Ashburton and the Hon Mrs Susan Baring, to Miss Lucy Fraser, youngest daughter of General Sir David and Lady Fraser, The Bishop of Winchester, assisted by the Rev William Rogers, officiated.

The bride, who was given away by her father, was attended by Algemond Lendrum, Jack Linehan, Aurea Baring and Juliet Nicolson. Mr Randle White was best man.

A reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon is being spent abroad.

Mr R.B. Henderson and Miss C.M. Jeans

The marriage took place on Saturday, September 26, 1992, at St. John the Baptist, Pewsey, Wiltshire, of Mr Robert Henderson, elder son of the late Mr T.B. Henderson and of Mrs Elizabeth Henderson, of Rhu, Dumfriesshire, and Miss Cariona M. Jeans, daughter of the late Rev R. Jeans and of Mrs Jeans, of St. Andrew's, Shaftesbury, Dorset. The Rev Colin Fox officiated.

The bride was given away by her brother Mr Richard Jeans and was attended by Miss Elspeth Jeans and Jessica Hibbert.

A reception was held at The Manor, Pewsey, and the honeymoon is being spent abroad.

Mr A.W. Price and Miss D.E. Iorizzo

The marriage took place on July 14, 1992, quietly in London, of Mr Anthony William Price, third son of Dr Francis and Dr Celia Price, of Little Tew, Oxfordshire, to Miss Dolores Estelle Iorizzo, only daughter of Dr and Mrs Luciano Iorizzo, of Owego, New York.

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Telephone 071 481 4000

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Telefax 071 782 7827

And now I command you to be good, which has power to build you up and give you more riches among all these things God has made. His word. Acts of Apostles 20: 32-35

BIRTHS

BARBES - On September 28th, to Phyllis (née Henson) and Kevin, a daughter, Nancy.

BEAL - On September 28th, to John and Mary, a daughter, Alice.

BELL - On September 28th, to John and Mary, a daughter, Alice.

BILLER - On September 28th, to John and Mary, a daughter, Alice.

BIVINS - On September 28th, to John and Mary, a daughter, Alice.

BONNEDORE - On September 28th, to John and Mary, a daughter, Alice.

BOWEN - On September 28th, to John and Mary, a daughter, Alice.

BRECHER - On September 28th, to John and Mary, a daughter, Alice.

BROCKLEBANK - On September 28th, to John and Mary, a daughter, Alice.

BROOK - On September 28th, to John and Mary, a daughter, Alice.

BROWN - On September 28th, to John and Mary, a daughter, Alice.

BROWN - On September 28th, to John and Mary, a daughter, Alice.

DEATHS

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OBITUARIES

SIR FRANCIS WATSON

Sir Francis Watson, KCV, FBA, FSA, director of the Wallace Collection from 1963 until his retirement in 1974, died in Wiltshire on September 27 aged 85. He was born in Worcester on August 24, 1907.

FOR many years the name of Francis Watson was synonymous with that of the Wallace Collection. By far the greater part of his working life was spent in the service of the collection left to the nation by Lady Wallace on her death in 1897. Watson joined the staff in his early thirties as an assistant keeper under Sir James Mann and succeeded to the directorship on the latter's death in 1962. The next year he followed Mann in another crucial appointment, that of Surveyor of the Queen's Works of Art.

It was in the ten years after the war, part of which Watson had spent on secondment to the Admiralty, that he built up his great reputation as a leading authority on the arts of France and Italy in the eighteenth century, with particular reference to the applied arts of the period. This culminated in the publication in 1956 of the *Catalogue of Furniture in the Wallace Collection*, which broke new ground in the field of serious catalogues of objects other than painting and sculpture. It achieved international acclaim and was followed by several works in the same vein. Among the most important was Watson's *The Wrightsman Collection*, published between 1966 and 1970, a scholarly and meticulous account of the collection, starting with furniture, of Mr and Mrs Charles B. Wrightsman, which he helped to form.

But Francis Watson was far from being merely a furniture expert. He was equally knowledgeable about painting. In 1949 he published a useful book on the paintings of

Canaletto, which went into a second edition in 1954. He also wrote shorter books on Giambattista Tiepolo and Fragonard.

His upbringing was solidly middle-class. His father was a headmaster and Francis Watson was educated at Shrewsbury and St John's College, Cambridge. He had the misfortune to graduate in 1929 when congenial work was even harder to find for a 22 year old than it is now. He struggled for some time in London on very little money. But he spoke well, was good at socialising and wrote fluently. He had always set his heart on career in the fine arts and eventually got a foot in the door at the Courtauld, where he became the first registrar in 1934, staying there until 1938.

The two great formative influences in Watson's scholarly life were his close friendships with John D. K. Lloyd and with Charles F. Bell, formerly Keeper of Fine Art at the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford. To both men he owed in large measure the mental discipline and inspiration which he later displayed in his own chosen fields of study. He became a fluent writer and in addition to his books was a regular contributor to *The Times Literary Supplement*. Anonymity in some areas suited him and he wrote a number of obituaries for this page; if he did not feel capable of the assignment himself then he was usually ready with the right name.

Watson's growing expertise in the eighteenth century in particular made him an indispensable source of advice on the whole of this period of art history. Because of it he was eventually appointed Surveyor of the Queen's Works of Art, in succession to Sir James Mann. With his polished manner and easy sociability he was able to move with poise in royal circles. But he was always ready to give recommendations to more modest collectors and several friends benefited from his words on whether



to buy and whether to sell, especially the latter. Francis Watson was appointed MVO in 1959, CVO in 1965, and finally created KCV in 1973.

He was the first chairman of the Furniture History Society which he was instrumental in forming, and of

the Walpole Society from 1970, as well as a trustee of the Whitechapel Art Gallery from 1949-74. He was an active fellow of the Society of Antiquaries and in 1969 was elected a fellow of The British Academy. He was also Slade Professor of Fine Art at Oxford, 1969-70, and

Wrightsmen Professor, New York University, 1970-71, having received the Cold Medal of that institution in 1966.

After his retirement from the Wallace Collection he held a number of academic appointments in the United States, principally the Kress Professorship at the National Gallery of Art in Washington DC, 1975-76. There was also the private sector: the work done for the Wrightsmans gained him some renown and other collectors were anxious to retain his services.

The Watson personality was both attractive and engaging. At the head of his qualities was a great and ever youthful enthusiasm for becoming involved in art historical activities of every kind. His participation brooked no opposition and his ideas were sometimes put through by rather unconventional methods. He had the collector's boyish delight in getting something for nothing, or for next to nothing, both for himself and for those who employed him. This trait, possibly a reflection of those hard early years, remained with him throughout his life and career. While at the Wallace he took a quiet delight in showing selected friends a small cache of exotic china.

From his earliest days he was a polished speaker. He could hold the attention of a specialist audience for an hour while discussing a single snuff-box in his lecture, "The Chocul Box", was good enough to be published by the OUP. But his command of anecdote was also in demand by his family. When there were anniversaries or weddings to be celebrated then Francis was always earmarked for the major speech. He was a cook of skill and discernment and an attractive letter writer, able to ring the changes on half-a-dozen subjects in one or two sheets.

His wife Mary died in 1969. Thereafter he derived much happiness from his adopted Chinese son.

APPRECIATIONS

Sir Robert Micklethwait

YOUR obituary (September 16) referred to many aspects of his distinguished career. May I add a brief word on three of them?

First, he was an exceptional advocate. The words "brilliant" or "outstanding" would not reflect his style. He was more of a Scarlett than a Brougham. But, by his meticulous preparation of his cases, his power of rational persuasion and his courtesy to his opponent and the court he was the embodiment of excellence.

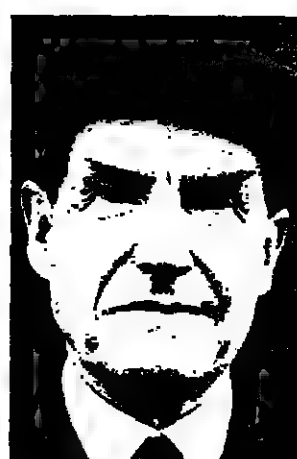
Second, his rapport with the young. He was immensely kind and helpful to generations of youthful beginners on the Oxford circuit. To be his pupil was to become his friend, and to be welcomed by the family who meant so much to him.

Third, although many of his professional colleagues hoped that he might be appointed to the High Court Bench, there must be countless administrators, practitioners and claimants who knew how fortunate it was that a man with his great intelligence, imagination and compassion was available to take on the task of Chief National Insurance Commissioner. It is difficult to think of anyone who is so warmly remembered by all who knew him.

Christopher Oddie

I SHOULD like, if I may, to add a short supplement to your admirable obituary of Robin Micklethwait.

As a friend and neighbour



of many years' standing, I had ample opportunity of appreciating and admiring his great personal qualities. His brothers achieved eminence in other fields but it fell to him, as your obituary explained, to follow in his father's footsteps and achieve great distinction as a lawyer.

He certainly looked the part; and at first meeting there was some risk of his giving an impression of austerity. But it soon became clear that any such impression concealed a sense of fun, a fondness for gentle teasing and an ability to talk to others at their own level which made him such a respected and popular member of the local community.

There are those who have every reason to be grateful to him for the help he gave when they were first starting in his profession. He bore, with almost self-deprecatory humour, and certainly with an enviable tolerance, the failing sight and other physical problems with which he had to cope in these latter years.

Lord Allen of Abbeydale

Adel Rootstein

FURTHER to your excellent obituary (September 22) may I recount the following happening — to endorse the extreme generosity of Adel?

For the Christmas of 1969, as a monk at Buckfast Abbey, I had the desire to build a "life-size" crib. Having known Adel for several years, I contacted her (with the then Abbott's permission) and enquired if I could loan or hire six figures from her workshop. She was so intrigued by this request she agreed at once. But with one stipulation... there would be no charge — and figures would be sent to the Abbey forthwith — which indeed they were (from London) and on arrival causing some concern from other monks viewing so many naked arms, legs, bodies etc.

The crib was eventually



assembled (Sandy Shaw was the Blessed Virgin and Patrick Lichfield St Joseph). Thanks to Adel's great kindness it gave much delight to the crowds of visitors to the Abbey.

William Pools

Colin Humphreys

COLIN Humphreys (obituary, September 21) was an elegant and witty draughtsman. Once in those happy, far-off days when the Air Ministry still existed he ad-

dressed his staff in a memorandum which referred to "the seven separate sub-units of a Chateau Lafite." I asked him what these were. I said I could distinguish three or possibly four, but not seven. He said: "I made it up. It sounds good."

Sir Ronald Mehlville

EDWARD WARBURG

Edward Mortimer Morris Warburg, American philanthropist and benefactor of the arts, died of heart failure in Norwalk, Connecticut, on September 21 aged 84. He was born in White Plains, New York, on June 5, 1908.

NO ONE in his right mind, Edward Warburg once said, would have got involved with American ballet in the early 1930s. The art form was an unknown quantity in the United States at that time, and he himself admitted that music was quite foreign to him. But Warburg, who was already challenging contemporary tastes with exhibitions of modern painting and sculpture, was undeterred. Together with Lincoln Kirstein, a former classmate at Harvard, he founded the American Ballet in 1933. The successful company, led by George Balanchine, was the precursor of the New York City Ballet.

The youngest of five children in a well-to-do New York banking family, Warburg grew up in an atmosphere of wealth and a tradition of philanthropy. While an undergraduate at Harvard he helped form the Harvard Soci-

ety of Contemporary Art, holding exhibitions in rented rooms of work by such artists as Edward Hopper and Georgia O'Keeffe. By 1932 he had become a founder of New York's Museum of Modern Art, serving on its board of trustees until 1953, and organising the museum's film library.

With time out for service in the second world war, during which he served in the US Army and took part in the invasion of Normandy, Warburg was active in philanthropic and relief organisations from 1939 onwards. He received decorations from the Belgian and Italian governments for his work with displaced persons after the war, was national chairman of the United Jewish Appeal from 1950 to 1955, and a member of the New York State Board of Regents from 1958 to 1975.

During the pre-war years he was an active art collector, acquiring works by Picasso, Matisse, Hopper, O'Keeffe, Lachaise, Klee, Miro, Brancusi and Calder. Many of these he later donated to the Museum of Modern Art and other museums.

He leaves a widow, son and daughter.

Cesar Manrique

CESAR Manrique, who devoted much of his life to trying

to protect his native island of Lanzarote from the ravages of mass tourism, has died aged 72. Among his successes was the banning of roadside advertising.

RALPH MANHEIM

Ralph Frederick Manheim, linguist and translator, died at his home in Cambridge on September 26 aged 85. He was born in New York City on April 4, 1907.

RALPH Manheim was so far ahead of other translators into the English language that he was in a class of his own. A modern foreign classic was always that much more certain to be read if it had his imprimatur. Yet, because translation is so poorly paid, this translator of Brecht, Hans Arp, Hesse, Proust (some of the letters), Hitler (*Mein Kampf*), a job he found very distasteful, but did well: he managed to extract what meaning the scarcely literate author put into it, Dürckheim, Günter Grass, the Swiss jurist Bachofen, and dozens of others, did not achieve financial security until he received a grant from the MacArthur Foundation in Chicago — which gave him an annual \$1,000 for each year of his age, thereby increasing as he grew older.

It is impossible to point to his greatest triumph, but Grass's *Tin Drum* and some of the very difficult and colloquial novels of Louis-Ferdinand Céline must come very high on a long list. He translated not only from the French and German but also, on occasion, from the Polish, the Dutch and even the Serbo-Croat. Nor did financial security in old age prevent him from working: he had finished Grass's latest novel, *The Call of the Toad*, not long before his final illness.

Manheim had graduated from Harvard before he was 20, one of the very few to have done so. He had already travelled in Germany and knew its language intimately — and only a little later he came to know French. He was interested in translation wholly for its own sake, which is really what turned him into the most expert translator of all. But, while he translated passages from his favourite books for pleasure, he also needed to



make a living. He did some teaching, worked as a writer for New Deal projects and did technical translations.

After the war, much of which he spent in the army as a translator of German military documents, he could at last take to translating the kind of material in which he was interested — contemporary novels, art books and philosophy. He translated many key works by the philosopher Karl Jaspers, and even struggled with the opaque *Introduction to Metaphysics* of the ex-Nazi Martin Heidegger, long ago dubbed by some orthodox philosophers as a "purveyor of literal nonsense". He did some run-of-the-mill work for money, such as a novel by Erich Maria Remarque, but kept to the best as

much as he could. After *The Tin Drum* (1962), and an American PEN award, his own name became more famous and he could command higher, although still seldom adequate, fees. He was now working from Paris, where he remained until 1985.

The essence of Manheim's genius as a translator, which sometimes — as in certain of Céline's slang diatribe — seemed little short of miraculous, lay in his combination of extreme fidelity to the text with a suitable style. Céline does not, in Manheim's hands, sound like an Englishman, as he had been made to do in some earlier translations, but like the Frenchman he was, yet speaking the right sort of English, and without any awkwardness whatever.

Manheim had had much practice of course; but he continued to master the special problems set by each individual writer whose work he translated. He managed to make Hitler sound like Hitler (when in 1943 it was important to try to understand him) and Heidegger sound, as he was, shifty. Yet he could overcome his reservations about Céline's anti-Semitism, and to reveal his intense artistry in a way that no other translator had ever been able to do. He was also very successful in his collaboration with John Willet, the Brecht critic and translator, in translations of some of the more difficult plays.

One of Manheim's greatest pleasures (and rewards) in his final years at Cambridge was to be approached, as he so often was, by professors as well as students who were grateful to him for providing them with such intimately authoritative versions of European classics.

Manheim was married four times. His fourth wife and fellow American, Julia, who devotedly nursed him throughout his last illness, survives him. His place can hardly be filled.

Astronomy

The sky at night in October

By MICHAEL J. HENDRIE, ASTRONOMY CORRESPONDENT

MERCURY is a -0.3 magnitude evening star throughout the month but will be difficult to see as it remains low in the south-west after sunset, setting no more than an hour after the Sun. Greatest eastern elongation (24 deg) is on the 31st. The two-day old crescent Moon will be just above Mercury on the evening of the 27th.

Venus is also an evening star but much brighter than Mercury at -3.9 magnitude. By the end of October, Venus will set in darkness and should be easily visible low in the south-west at dusk. The crescent Moon will be above Venus on the 28th, with the bright star Antares below the planet and Mercury lower still and to the north. Venus will move quickly away from the horizon during November to become a brilliant evening object over Christmas and setting as late as 20h by the new year.

Mars has brightened to -0.2 mag by the end of the month as it moves towards opposition on the 7th January 1993. The red planet is just coming over the north-eastern horizon by 21h in late October, in the constellation Gemini and not

far from the bright stars Castor and Pollux. The waning gibbous Moon will be nearby on the 18th.

Jupiter is a morning star in the constellation Virgo and -1.7 magnitude. In twilight early in the month, it rises by 03h 30m and in a dark sky late in the month, the Moon will be to the south on the 23rd/24th.

Saturn is low in the south-west by 23h late in October, in the constellation of Capricornus. The 0.4 mag planet is stationary on the 16th, after which its motion against the stars will be direct or towards the east. The Moon will be nearby on the 5th/6th.

Uranus is in Sagittarius setting by 20h 30m on the 31st.

Neptune is close to Uranus and sets about the same time. The Moon is near the two planets on the 3rd/4th and again on the 30th/31st.

The Moon: first quarter, 3d 14h; full Moon, 11d 18h; last quarter, 19d 04h; new Moon, 25d 21h.

This October's full Moon will be the Hunter's Moon, the full Moon following the Harvest Moon (that nearest the date of the autumn equinox).

Sunset on the 1st is at 17h 40m and on the 31st at 16h

35m while sunrise is at 06h 00m and 06h 50m on the same dates.

Astronomical Twilight ends at 19h 30m and 18h 30m early and late in the month and begins again at 04h 05m and 05h 00m.

Algol, the eclipsing binary star in Perseus, fades from its usual brightness of 2.1 to 3.4 magnitude every 69 hours, taking about five hours to fade and another five hours to recover normal brightness. It can be seen when faint this October about the following times: 6d 04h, 9d 00h, 11d 21h, 29d 02h and 31d 23h.

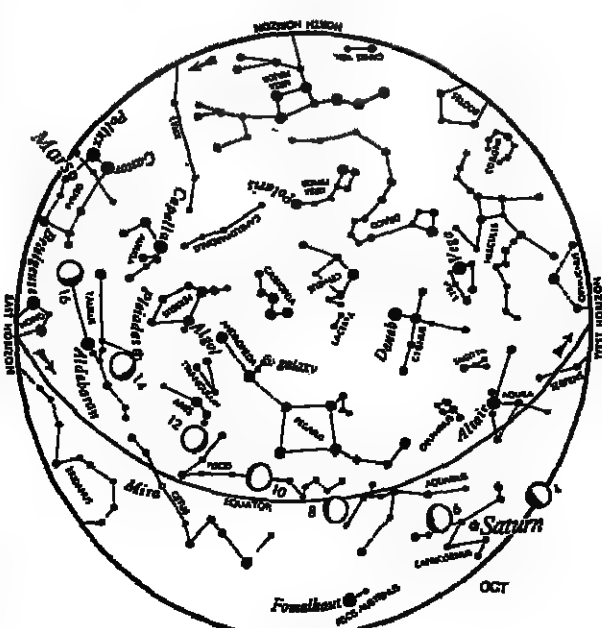
On the October chart the Milky Way lies from south-west, through the zenith to north-east. It passes through the constellations Aquila (the eagle), Sagitta (the arrow), Cygnus (the swan), Lacerta (the lizard), Cepheus (Cepheus), Cassiopeia (Cassiopeia), Perseus (Perseus), Auriga (the charioteer) and Gemini (the twins). To the south lies the constellation Pegasus (Pegasus, the flying horse), the principal feature being the easily identified Great Square of Pegasus.

The two right-hand stars of the Square of Pegasus provide a convenient guide to the 1.2 magnitude star Fomalhaut in the constellation Piscis Austr-

inus (the southern fish). This star lies in a part of the sky devoid of other bright stars and is easily identified in the autumn evenings. It reaches a maximum altitude above the horizon of only 9 degrees as seen from the latitude of London and appears even lower in the sky the farther north you go.

Attached to Pegasus is Andromeda. The top-left star of the Great Square is actually the brightest star in the constellation of Andromeda and not in Pegasus. Away to the north-east is marked a galaxy. This is M31, the great galaxy of Andromeda. Situated at a distance of over 2 million light years, it is the most distant object readily visible to the naked eye. On a dark, moonless night it appears as an ellipse of light, two or three times the size of the full Moon. How much can be seen depends on the clarity and darkness of the sky and the observer's eyesight.

Faint, extended objects like galaxies and nebulae require a dark, transparent sky but also the observer should be shielded from any direct lights, even quite distant ones, and take time to adapt to the darkness. This "dark adaptation" takes 20 to 30 minutes.



The diagram shows the brighter stars that will be above the horizon in the latitude of London at 23.5 (11 pm) at the beginning, 22h (10 pm) in the middle, and 21h (9 pm) at the end of the month, local mean time.

At places away from the Greenwich meridian the Greenwich times at which the diagram applies are later than the above by one hour for each 15 deg west of Greenwich and earlier by a like amount if the place be east.

The map should be turned so that the horizon the observer is facing (shown by the words around the circle) is at the bottom, the zenith being at the top.

Greenwich Mean Time, known to astronomers as Universal Time and expressed in 24-hour notation, is used in the accompanying notes unless otherwise stated.

SEPT 29 ON THIS DAY 1890



The Working crematorium first opened in 1879 but was closed by the local authorities. It was used sporadically thereafter until 1890 when the movement was given an additional boost by the holding of an international conference in Berlin.

WORKING CREMATORIUM

On Saturday last about ninety members of the Association of Public Sanitary Inspectors paid a visit of inspection to the crematorium, St. John's, Working, upon the invitation of the Cremation Society of England.

The crematorium, which stands in a little over an acre of ground, consists of a spacious chapel in which the funeral rites are performed. This building opens through a passageway into the cremating chamber, in which is the furnace, which is specially constructed and so arranged that all the gases and products of combustion pass away underground to a main chimney shaft a few yards from the building. At the base of the shaft is a cold furnace, under which the products of combustion from the cremating furnace are brought, and through the incandescent body of which they have to pass upwards in their way out of the chimney. By this means perfect combustion is attained, no smoke or unburned gases passing out at the chimney top except for a few seconds at the moment of firing-up.

Upon the occasion of the visit in question the cremation of an animal was performed, in order to show the practical working of the system. The animal was a sheep, the carcass of which was placed on an iron carrier and run into the furnace, the carrier being then withdrawn and the furnace door closed. The flames and heat from the furnace are made to traverse that portion of it in which the body is placed, and they in time utterly consume

whatever is placed therein. The ashes fall into a receptacle, and at the close of this process are withdrawn, and can be either preserved or buried. The operation of complete disposal in the case of human remains usually occupies about an hour. The sheep, however, took rather longer to consume, owing to its heavier weight and to the circumstances that the sight holes in the side of the furnace were frequently opened to afford the visitors the opportunity of watching the progress of cremation. At the close of the operation the whitened ashes of the animal were withdrawn, and fragments were taken away by many of the visitors as mementoes.

It appears that the Cremation Society has been established for 13 years, during which period 138 cremations have taken place. The number has increased each year and, as showing the growth of this method of disposal, it may be stated that there were 100 cremations up to the end of last year, the 38 having taken place during the present year.

It was stated that cremation societies have been established in the provinces and that there is a growing recognition of the necessity for cremation in large and over-populated centres. After some remarks from Dr. Richardson, the president of the Sanitary Inspectors' Association, the visitors proceeded to inspect the private cremating chamber erected for the Duke of Bedford, which is a few feet to the rear of the public chamber.

The arrangements here are similar to those in the public chamber, and the furnace opens into a flue leading to the same chimney as the other. The cinerary urns and other arrangements were also inspected. It was stated that ashes of cremated adults weigh from 4½ lbs. to 7½ lbs., occupy a space corresponding to about half to three-quarters of a gallon. There was an opinion in favour of cremation upon public and sanitary grounds, although some objections were taken to it on the score of sentiment.

are not on the agenda, adding bell, 48, Greg Morgan, 47, and Mike Oxlade, 47. Knight

CAROL LEONARD

ors, Cromer roundly declared that Parliament and government shared responsibility

Yours faithfully, ALAN SMALLBONE, 30 Temple Fortune Lane, NW11.

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TODAY IN BUSINESS

PHONE WARS



Mercury says it is ready to launch a major assault on BT's monopoly of the residential and small business telephone market with a national advertising campaign

Page 23

TALK TALK

Municipal Mutual Insurance has sought to calm fears over its future by saying that talks are continuing with a potential partner from France

Page 21

BUMPY RIDE



Shares in Kwik-Fit Holdings were flattened when the recession punctured tyre sales and deflated interim profits. Has the fall been overdone?

Page 22

LAW TIMES

The Criminal Justice Act 1991, which comes into force on Thursday, aims to foster a partnership between Parliament and the courts

Page 27

PORTFOLIO



£2,000 a day can be won by playing Portfolio Plus. Cards can be obtained from: Portfolio Plus, PO Box 40, Blackburn, BB1 6AJ

Page 25

THE POUND

US dollar 1.7270 (+0.0170)
German mark 2.5136 (-0.0193)
Exchange index 82.6 (-0.3)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 1873.1 (-40.9)
FT-SE 100 2560.0 (-41.0)
New York Dow Jones 3255.45 (+5.13)
Tokyo Nikkei Avg 17972.61 (-422.15)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base 9%
3-month interbank 9 1/8-9 1/4%
3-month eligible bills 8 1/2-8 3/4%
US: Prime Rate 6%
Federal Funds 7 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bills 2 7/8-2 7/16%
30-year bonds 9 1/8-9 1/4%

CURRENCIES

London: New York: £ \$1.7275
C \$1.7275
C DM2 5161
C DM2 5161
C FFfr 4735
C FFfr 4735
C Yen 206 83
C Yen 206 83
C Index 82.6
C Index 82.6
C ECU 27.2651
C ECU 27.2651
C SDR 185000
C SDR 185000
London Forex market close

GOLD

London Fixing: AM \$349.00 PM \$348.00
Close \$348.00-348.50
C201 00-202 00
New York: COMEX \$347.65-348.15

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Oct) \$20.35/bbl (\$20.20)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 138.9 August (1987=100)
* Denotes monthly trading price

EC ministers oppose two-speed Europe

Dublin raises interest rates to defend punt

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

IRELAND, determined to stay in the front rank of monetary integration in Europe, was yesterday forced to raise its key lending rates by 3 points to defend the punt. Last week, Dublin introduced foreign exchange controls to counter market turbulence.

The latest move, which took the Irish central bank's short-term facility rate to 13.75 and the overnight deposit rate to 10.5 per cent, came as the conviction hardened in the financial markets that the past weeks of severe tension within the exchange-rate mechanism are rapidly leading to a two- or multi-tier monetary union, with Germany, France and the Benelux countries forming the "hard-core" first tier.

Meanwhile, Community finance ministers came out firmly against a two-speed Europe and reaffirmed their commitment to proceeding together within the European Monetary System.

A communiqué, issued at

the end of a day of discussions, welcomed the return of calm to the financial markets. It said: "Everyone present emphasised their opposition to the concept of a two-speed Europe and reiterated that the object of the Community was to proceed together."

The ministers said yesterday the key to stability in the Community was the strict application of "convergence" programmes to harmonise economic indicators.

Reflecting growing concern over being left out of the first tier, Anders Fogh Rasmussen, the Danish economics minister, said his government wanted to be part of the hard core.

It was a Danish "no" in a referendum on the Maastricht treaty that initially prompted market unease about the party grid.

Sterling, which fell to DM2.5130 at the official 4pm London close, has contributed to the pressure on the punt. Currency dealers see the devaluation of sterling as a threat to

the Irish economy. Expectations of a further cut in base rates continued to undermine sentiment for the punt. It ended almost 2 pence lower than on Friday, but held above its trading low last week of DM2.5103. Against the dollar, sterling closed about 14 cents higher at \$1.7270. Its trade-weighted index dropped 0.3 to 82.6.

Renewed anxiety about the American economy, and speculation that US interest rates could be cut again if jobs figures on Friday are bad, pushed the dollar to a record low of 119 yen, the currency fast becoming a "safe haven". It eased to close in Europe at ¥119.75 and fell to DM1.4545.

A calmer mood marked the European markets following last week's successful defence of the franc by the German and French central banks. The franc stood at 3.3673 to the mark at the London close, up from 3.3820 on Friday. But some analysts fear that, having saved the franc, the Bundesbank council will this week be less likely to ease monetary policy.

The punt, still considered as a candidate for devaluation, experienced most pressure, but managed to stay more than half pence off its ERM floor in European trading hours. Later, it dropped below its lower permitted limit, fueling fears that interest rates may be raised again, a move likely to increase pressure on Iberian currencies. German overnight rates yesterday fell to their lowest level for five months in a technical adjustment related to intervention.

Albert Reynolds, said a devaluation of the punt was not warranted. Speaking in Dublin, he said: "The benefits of a firm exchange rate that belongs to the core currencies of Europe, in terms of lower inflation, lower interest rates in the longer term and greater investment confidence, outweigh any short-term difficulties which will undoubtedly now face the Irish economy."

Times, page 22
Market report, page 22

Leading article, page 15
Comment, page 23

SFO confirms Bank enquiry

By JONATHAN PRYNN

THE Serious Fraud Office has confirmed it has teamed up with the City of London police to investigate allegations that two Bank of England officials accepted bribes from executives of the collapsed Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI).

An accountant and former Pakistani military intelligence officer, identified as Mr X, has made a sworn statement to the inquiry into BCCI, headed by Lord Justice Bingham, claiming that he saw briefcases stuffed with \$100 bills passed

to the Bank officials at a BCCI party in 1990.

A spokeswoman for the Serious Fraud Office said: "We are looking into these claims in conjunction with the City of London police."

The Bank of England confirmed at the weekend that it carried out its own internal investigation into the claims earlier this year but found no evidence to support them.

The Bank said it had referred the enquiries to the criminal authorities so that they had all relevant information

at their disposal rather than because of any suspicions that the claims might be true.

The allegations came to light on Saturday when Brian Sedgemore, the Labour MP for Hackney South and Shore, tabled an early-day motion detailing the evidence given by Mr X to the Bingham enquiry.

The Bingham report has been handed to the Treasury but details are not likely to become officially available until it can be read out in parliament next month.

Nuclear urged to make way for coal

By PATRICIA TEHAN

TIM Eggar, the energy minister, summoned the chairman and chief executive of Nuclear Electric, the state-owned generator, to talks yesterday in an effort to persuade them to hand over some of their business to a competitor.

He wants them to cancel contracts for power sales to regional electricity companies in order to create more room for coal-fired power.

Although no decision was taken, the two men, John Collier, chairman, and Robert Hawley, chief executive, are understood to have agreed to a compromise with Mr Eggar. Nuclear Electric will give up some of its contracts, but, as one source said, it "will not face the large-scale tinkering with its business that was originally envisaged".

Mr Eggar is in a difficult position, needing to get coal privatisation away while preserving value in Nuclear Electric with its 20 per cent share of the generating market.

The government's plans to



Compromise: John Collier, Nuclear Electric chairman

begin its privatisation of British Coal are being held up by a delay in the signing of new five-year coal contracts with National Power and PowerGen. The generators are unable to sign up until they have reached agreements to sell the coal-fired power to the regional companies.

The regional electricity companies object to the amount of coal-fired power they would be expected to

take and to the price they would be expected to pay. One regional supply company head said: "The work to get the whole deal together is at least weeks away."

Michael Heseltine, trade secretary, hopes to make some announcement on the planned privatisation at the Conservative conference next week. The finger of blame for holding up the signing of the contracts has been pointed at



Edging towards target: David James, chairman of Dan Air, is close to obtaining finance to save UK's oldest airline

Halifax and the Woolwich cut rates

By LINDSAY COOK
MONEY EDITOR

TWO of the largest mortgage lenders, the Halifax and Woolwich building societies, have cut their base mortgage rate to 9.99 per cent for new borrowers from yesterday and from November 1 for existing borrowers. They are also offering mortgages to first time buyers at well under 8 per cent.

The Woolwich is offering a mortgage rate of 7.5 per cent to first time buyers borrowing £60,000 or more. The 2.49 per cent discount for one year is only available to those borrowing less than 90 per cent of the value of a property who take out an endowment policy. For loans above 90 per cent the discount is 1.39 per cent, giving a mortgage rate of 8.6 per cent.

The Halifax is offering a minimum rate of 7.6 per cent to first time buyers who borrow more than £100,000 and have saved 10 per cent of the house price. The first time buyer discounts run to January 31, 1994. The buyer must also take either the society's combined buildings and contents insurance or its mortgage protector policy to safeguard mortgage payments. Those borrowing £60,000 or more get a discount of 2.19 per cent and pay 7.8 per cent if they have saved 10 per cent. Below £60,000 the discount is 1.39 per cent up to 90 per cent of value and 1.29 per cent for those needing larger percentage loans.

From next Monday the 39th issue of National Savings certificates will be on sale offering a reduced 6.75 per cent tax-free over five years. The FIRST Option bond will pay 6.5 per cent after basic tax.

Hopes rise for £30 million deal to keep Dan-Air flying

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

AS David James, the Dan-Air chairman, yesterday did the rounds of City financial institutions, hopes were rising that he might secure a £30 million deal to see Britain's oldest airline through the recession. Playing heavily on the goodwill of the 40-year-old airline still enjoys in the travel trade and among business travellers, he was inching towards his target by late afternoon.

As Mr James spoke to banks and existing investors, Richard Branson, owner of Virgin Atlantic, was beginning the "due diligence" process and examining the books of Dan-Air's parent company, Davies & Newman. A decision is not expected for ten days but it was clear Mr Branson is becoming attracted to taking a stake in a re-financed Dan-Air.

Despite Mr James's repeated protestations that the airline is under no immediate threat, the outcome of the proposed deal hangs increasingly on the success of both Mr James and Mr Branson in maintaining confidence in the

ability to keep Dan-Air flying. Without that confidence, four operators will shy away from placing charter contracts and businessmen will avoid making scheduled bookings.

It is this uncertainty which caused the Civil Aviation Authority to show concern about Dan-Air last week. Although there was no immediate cause for alarm, rumours had begun circulating four months ago that Dan-Air could be in financial trouble.

As a result, many tour operators began to turn their backs on Dan-Air because of doubts that it would be around to fulfil next summer's contracts. The tour operators also pointed to the over-capacity of charter seats this summer which had led many to consolidate their bookings into the airlines they own. At the same time businessmen, who had discovered Dan-Air's high-quality Elite class service and sent short-term bookings soaring, began to move to rival airlines for future flights.

By last week the rumours had become so rife within the industry that the CAA had no option but to ask for clarification about Dan-Air's long-term future arguing that if there was any doubt it should not try to sell seats which may not be available.

Mr Branson is anxious to ensure the independent airline sector survives to provide some kind of competitive balance against the mega-carriers. If Dan-Air went under, he believes, Virgin itself could be caught in the turbulence. Virgin has a fast growing tour operation through Virgin Holidays and, Mr Branson believes, by linking Dan-Air directly with a tour operator one of the main causes of its problems with charter services could be overcome.

He also argued that Dan-Air's successful 50 per cent stake in Gatwick Handling could be used to provide a joint operation for both airlines, that reservations could be united to save costs and vital Gatwick slots could be traded between the two.

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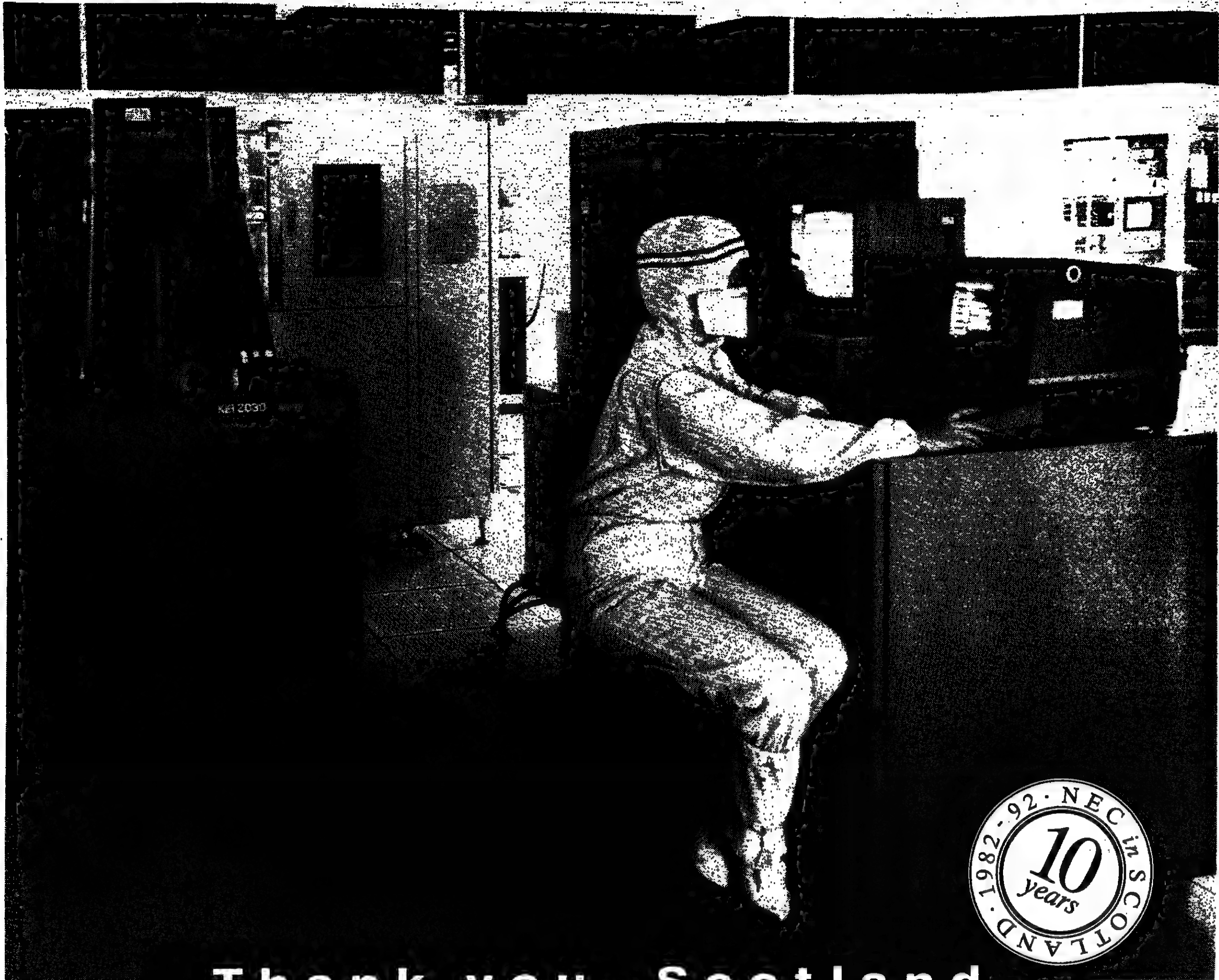
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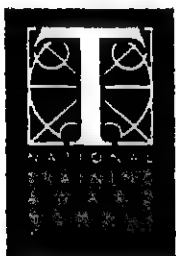


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MMI claims rescue talks with French are still on

By JONATHAN PRYNN AND DOUGLAS BROOM

MUNICIPAL Mutual Insurance (MMI), the insurance company that provides cover for the vast majority of Britain's local authorities, has denied claims that rescue talks with the Eurosafe group of French insurance companies have collapsed.

Some weekend reports suggested that La Garantie Mutuelle des Fonctionnaires, the French insurer heading the Eurosafe group, had decided to pull out of the negotiations. MMI, Britain's ninth largest insurer, has severe financial problems and takeover by the French is likely to be its only chance of survival.

In a statement issued yesterday, Brian Wright, MMI chief executive, confirmed that the talks were continuing. "The transfer of MMI's business is complex and we have to ensure that the transfer is effected in the best way to

protect the interests of policy holders. Given this complexity, it is not surprising that the process of structuring the transfer has been protracted. Our discussions with GMF are continuing. MMI continued to write new business and pay out claims in full, he added.

Mr Wright and other MMI directors will meet leaders from the associations of county, district and metropolitan councils at Church House, Westminster, today.

Local authorities have been advised that if MMI went into liquidation they would have grounds to sue the directors and liquidators to recover unpaid compensation.

A spokesman said: "We have been told that litigation could take up to 20 years to complete if MMI goes down."

If the talks with the French do fail, the collapse of MMI or its withdrawal from public liability underwriting would be a major headache for the treasurers of Britain's local authorities. MMI has dominated the local authority public liability market for a decade by aggressively chasing business through quoting very low premium rates.

The composite insurers, most of which have underwritten little local authority business since the early 1980s, would be unlikely to return to a market of which they have so little recent experience without being compensated with very substantial increases in premium rates.

Lloyd's, with its greater flexibility and willingness to underwrite unusual risks, might be more prepared to take on the local authority accounts, but would also charge higher rates.

Clwyd County Council in north Wales yesterday issued a strong denial of newspaper reports that MMI had put pressure on it and neighbouring Gwynedd council to suppress a report on child abuse council homes in the two counties.



Shares in Merrydown Wine fell from 298p to 255p after the wine and cider maker warned investors that competition from cheaper brands had hit margins and squeezed available shelf space in stores. Market conditions were

"extremely difficult", said Richard Purdey, chairman (above), at the annual meeting in East Sussex. Despite a strong April-June quarter, the cider market was expected to show only slight growth over the year. Pub trade continues to be

tough. Merrydown hopes to announce a national distribution arrangement for its draught cider before Christmas. Merrydown also announced the acquisition of Sorelle, a sparkling herbal fruit drink, from Premier Teas.

Aberdeen Trust in funds deal

By JONATHAN PRYNN

ABERDEEN Trust, the fund management group, has given a warning that its operating profits for the financial year ending tomorrow will be below last year's level and has announced the acquisition of contracts to manage £430 million of funds.

Aberdeen Trust told its shareholders that its trading position has been "adversely affected by the uncertainty in the stock market arising from the continuing failure of the UK economy to emerge from recession, and by the weakness of the dollar, which is the valuation currency for a significant element of the funds under management."

The fund management contracts are being acquired from Century, a life assurance company, for £5.6 million and will generate a minimum annual fee income of £950,000.

Interim suffers as How dips into red

By PHILIP PANGALOS

HOW Group has cut its interim dividend to 0.75p (1p) a share as exceptional redundancy and severance costs pushed the building and engineering services contractor into the red.

The company, which is based in West Bromwich, West Midlands, suffered a loss before tax of £96,000 in the six months to the end of June, against a profit of £507,000 last time, after an exceptional charge of £591,000.

Turnover slumped to £75.2 million, down from £123.1 million previously, in what the group described as the worst trading conditions since its origins in 1947. Order books are down by a third on the comparative period, but this was exacerbated by the group's decision not to chase business at reduced margins.

Peter How, chairman, blamed most of the fall in

turnover on the engineering services division, which has shed a further 20 per cent of its workforce during 1992 in the continued drive to reduce overheads.

The division is directly exposed to the construction industry and has had to shed about 250 jobs this year, leaving a workforce of 1,160 compared with staffing levels of about 2,300 in 1990.

How's businesses were also affected by the failure of Canary Wharf and Mountleigh, although its exposure is described as "modest", with a "worst case scenario" for bad debts already provided at £500,000.

There is a 0.35p loss per share, against earnings of 0.51p a share last time. The group's cash reserves stood at about £7 million at the half year stage. The shares eased 2p to 24p.

New tenant found for Alban Gate

By MATTHEW BOND

MEPC, the property group, has secured another tenant for Alban Gate, the huge office block built over London Wall in the City of London.

GT Management, the investment manager, is to take 24,000 sq ft on the 14th floor. The letting comes a week after Chemical Bank said it would take 164,000 sq ft in preference to an earlier decision to move to Canary Wharf.

Like the Chemical letting, GT has secured break clauses in its lease, further evidence that the structure of the standard 25-year lease is coming under pressure in the competitive London office market. GT can break its lease in years ten and 15, while Chemical Bank has break clauses in years one, five and 15. Alban Gate rents are thought to be about £30 a sq ft, payable after two rent-free years.

Johnson Matthey buys US titanium supplier

JOHNSON Matthey, the specialist precious metals groups, has bought "for several millions of dollars" the Alta Group of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Alta is the world's leading supplier of high-purity titanium. At the request of the vendors, JMI is not disclosing the price paid, but says Alta has a good profits record, and in 1991 achieved a turnover of \$10 million. Alta's net assets at December 31 were \$5 million.

The acquisition will make an immediate contribution to JMI's profits, and will further strengthen the group's existing American manufacturing operations. High-purity titanium is used extensively in the semiconductor industry.

HSBC's \$75m provision

HSBC Holdings, parent company of Midland Bank, will make a \$75 million provision for the quarter ending this month after a review of the \$2 billion-plus assets of its subsidiary Concord Leasing Inc. HSBC Holdings has also made a capital contribution of \$100 million to Concord. HSBC said Michael O'Hanlon, president and chief executive of Concord, and Richard Parkes, executive vice-president, have resigned and operational management of Concord has been assumed by an HSBC executive.

Greenacre flourishes

GREENACRE Group, the nursing home operator run by Tony Acton, lifted pre-tax profits by 60 per cent from £377,000 to £605,000 in the six months to July 31 on turnover of £2.1 million (£1.3 million). Earnings per share were 0.45p (0.27p). The interim dividend rises to 0.13p (0.125p). The company, which changed its name from Brewmaker in November 1990, has 384 beds and reserves of £2 million to fund future developments. The new 60-bed Trowbridge Oaks Nursing Home opens on October 1.

UK oil output rises

UK NORTH Sea oil output rose to 1.80 million barrels per day, up from 1.76 million in July, while Norwegian production fell by 5 per cent to 2.01 million bpd, according to a monthly survey by Arthur Andersen, the consultant. The report said UK output was at its highest level since February due to substantial increases in production from Brent, where the Alpha and Bravo platforms reopened after a shutdown in June. A fall of 108,000 bpd from the Statfjord field was the main cause of the fall in Norwegian output, the report said.

Consort for Sherwood

SHERWOOD Computer Services, the USM-quoted software house, is acquiring Consort Data, a specialist supplier of computer systems to stockbrokers, for up to £1.06 million. Consort supplies systems to Stock Exchange members to enable efficient management of their back-office operations. Consort has more than 30 customers representing about 10 per cent of the market and its systems process some 8 per cent of all bargains transacted on the exchange.

TNT's Abeles resigns

SIR Peter Abeles, managing director of TNT, the Australian transport group, announced his resignation yesterday. Sir Peter, aged 68, who will retain his position as joint head of Ansett Airlines, will be replaced at TNT by David Mordimer. Sir Peter said he resigned because of the increasing time and effort demanded by his duties to the multinational transport group.

Standard Chartered wins third big payoff

By JON ASHWORTH

STANDARD Chartered, the international banking group, is in line for its third big legal payoff in less than six months.

The bank has settled proceedings it brought in the New South Wales Supreme Court over an \$A100 million loan to GPI Leisure Corporation, an Australian hotel and leisure group, in May 1988. Standard will receive \$A71.5 million (£29.8 million) in cash, subject to a number of preconditions being satisfied within the next 90 days. A further \$A30 million has been raised from the sale of assets.

The defendants included Australian National Industries, Spedley Securities and two former directors of ANI and Spedley. GPI Leisure was also a plaintiff in the proceedings.

All parties are reasonably confident that the preconditions will be satisfied and that payment will be made. If not, the litigation will resume at the earliest available court date. The settlement will be included in the 1992 accounts.

Standard's shares ended the day unchanged at 467p. The banking group was hit by a high incidence of bad debts after winning an Australian banking licence in 1986. No further cases are pending in the Australian courts.

In June, the bank agreed to an out of court payment of US\$62 million from Coopers & Lybrand to compensate for loans it made to Miniscribe, a former Californian computer company, in 1988.

A month earlier, a court in Arizona decided that Price Waterhouse should pay \$338 million compensation for negligence in preparing the 1985 and 1986 audits of United Bank of Arizona which Standard bought in 1987. Price Waterhouse attacked the verdict as "outrageous, incomprehensible and indefensible," and has appealed.

Proceedings have begun in India in an attempt to recoup US\$376 million in losses stemming from the Bombay financial markets scandal. Standard has made precautionary provisions of £50 million against potential losses.

Linread in profit at half-time

By COLIN CAMPBELL

LINREAD, the maker of precision components for the aerospace and motor industries, has turned from loss into profit in the six months ended June 27, but in a return to its traditional pattern of dividend payments the half-time payout is 1.5p a share, compared with 2p previously.

Interim pre-tax profits were £1.05 million, compared with a pre-tax loss of £1.37 million last time.

Gearing has been reduced from a December year-end level of 59 per cent to 44 per cent, and heavy losses within the commercial-products division have been eliminated.

Linread says there is increasing pressure on margins in the aerospace sector, but with interim turnover at £20 million (£21.6 million) the group has overall managed to achieve a slightly greater penetration in an generally reduced market.

The Birmingham group gives a warning, however, that economic conditions in Britain and the world at large have increased the uncertainty in the industries it serves, especially in the car sector.

The shares rose 1p to 73p.

NEC lifts spending at Scottish plant

By KERRY GILL

NEC Semiconductors (UK) yesterday announced a further £9 million investment at its plant at Livingston, West Lothian. Tadashi Suzuki, the company's senior executive vice president, disclosed plans to expand the plant's wafer fabrication manufacturing capacity and to introduce a new high technology "order processing system".

NEC, the world's largest manufacturer of semi-conductors, set up its Scottish operation exactly ten years ago. The business has grown to occupy

a 40-acre site. Investment in the plant has reached £175 million and it employs 830 people.

Jan Lang, the Scottish Secretary said: "It marks ten successful years for NEC in Scotland. During the early years of Locate in Scotland, NEC was persuaded of the many benefits offered by the Scottish location. The qualities of the Scottish workforce, productivity levels and the operating environment are all reflected in the spectacular growth of NEC's operation in Livingston."

Mr Suzuki said he expected that the semiconductor business would be three times bigger by the year 2000 than at present and that NEC was determined to remain the premier semiconductor company in the world. "Our basic policy is to get a better service to our customers with better products which should be produced at the nearest place to our customers. The most advanced semiconductor technology is available at the Livingston plant which gives better quality, better cost and better delivery to the European market and its customers than other suppliers," he said.



Lang: spectacular growth

SEC casts its net beyond Wall Street

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON
IN NEW YORK

THE Securities and Exchange Commission, which cracked down on insider dealing by investment bankers in the 1980s, is now getting tougher on white-collar crimes by individuals far removed from Wall Street.

Two cases announced last week show the SEC is aggressively applying rarely used sections of the share dealing laws and is casting its net wider to find those who profit from non-public material information. The cases involve 25 people from whom the SEC is seeking more than \$22 million in repaid profits, fines and other penalties. The SEC usually claims the original profit, plus three times its value with interest.

Those involved include a public-relations office, a secretary, an electrician, a chemist, a property developer, an accountant and a nightclub owner.

In one case, centring on Grand Metropolitan's 1988 takeover of the American

food group Pillsbury, seven people allegedly made an estimated \$750,000 profit from knowing it was about to happen.

In the second, 18 people are said to have made \$4.5 million when the French hotel group Accor bought the American budget-price Motel 6 chain. SEC investigators say the case is the largest and most extensive it has exposed.

Lawyers say the GrandMet case shows a big shift in the way the SEC is pursuing insider-dealer cases because it charged those who had no fiduciary duty with either of the companies involved.

The principal charges are made against Robert and Theresa Falbo, and Mr Falbo's accountant, Anthony Capricuso. Mr Falbo was an electrician who installed a security system to protect GrandMet's acquisition files and Mrs Falbo was the secretary to a GrandMet executive in America.

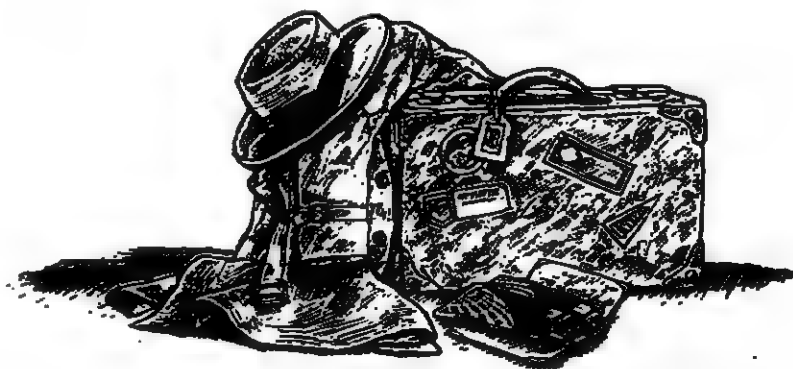
The SEC alleges that a master key to the security system had been kept enabling information to be gathered on the takeover during the summer of

1988. Mr Falbo is said to have shared the information with acquaintances, including Mr Capricuso who allegedly shared it in turn with others. Mr Falbo and Mr Capricuso each face a conspiracy charge and nine criminal charges of securities fraud, carrying jail sentences of up to 95 years.

In the Motel 6 case, the SEC accuses Hugh Thrasher, the chain's vice-president for communications and marketing, of having passed information to his friend Carl Harris. Mr Thrasher denies all allegations and says he made no profits from trading by others and did not "tip" anyone illegally.

The SEC says Mr Thrasher provided information to Mr Harris as a gift to a friend he had been supporting financially. Mr Harris died in April. The SEC claims Mr Harris shared the information with his room-mates, family and friends who in turn shared it with friends, including a nightclub owner, property developer and pharmacist and several Californian businessmen.

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COMMENT

Dan-Air needs a confidence trick

Like banking, the holiday business depends on confidence. Rumours of trouble, especially financial trouble, can create disproportionate damage and eventually become self-fulfilling. Holidaymakers shy away when the whispers begin to circulate and so do tour operators in case their customers pass on to the next glossy catalogue. So finding a solution to Dan-Air's difficulties was never likely to be easy. The first painstaking capital reconstruction stitched together by David James, chairman of Davies & Newman, Dan-Air's parent company, appeared to be fine. It seemed to provide the time and the finance for Dan-Air to trade out of its pressing difficulties. But however comforting the rows and columns of a cash flow forecast look when freshly printed, they are never more than educated guesses. In Dan-Air's case it was impossible to calculate the damage to confidence of its need to sweet talk bankers and others into going along with a re-financing. The impact appears to have been more severe than could have been expected.

The confidence problem is much more daunting for a company seeking help for a second time so soon after the last financial reconstruction. This may lead to a chicken and egg problem where bankers and investors hold back in fear that the holiday trade has lost confidence, and the holiday trade walks away in case the money men pull the plug.

One thing is essential to restore confidence, hard cash. Without it Dan-Air would fail the confidence test. Davies & Newman should therefore demand that rescue parties such as Richard Branson's Virgin group quickly put up some money to accompany their fine words of support. If it is not forthcoming, the doughty Mr James and colleagues should look elsewhere for backing. Their airline has highly prized takeoff and landing slots, a sizeable slice of the package tour market in Britain and is a fine base for expansion once the recession is over.

Punt pressure

If sterling's exit from the exchange-rate mechanism was precipitated by an unfortunate and ill-timed rumour, then so was yesterday's panicky decision by the Bank of Ireland to raise the short-term facilities rate by three percentage points to 13.75 per cent. Yesterday's rumour concerns apparent Franco-German plans for a monetary "mini-Europe", presumably with Ireland on the outside. As was the case with the rumour which led up to sterling's suspension from the ERM two weeks ago, this one has been strongly denied. Yet it is only too plausible. The Irish punt has been one of the weakest ERM currencies after the French referendum and had to be propped up by extreme measures. These included the reintroduction of exchange controls last week, and yesterday's board interest rate rise.

The markets would have perhaps been even more ferocious but for prospects, however faint, that Ireland may after all become part of a monetary mini-Europe. Albert Reynolds, the Irish prime minister, said yesterday that if there was a two-speed Europe, Ireland would be in the fast track, since the fundamentals of the Irish economy are "in many respects healthier than Germany's".

The markets will take a sceptical look at such claims. Three other ERM currencies remain under a cloud. At the bottom of the range are the two Iberian currencies, definitely "non-core". Most peculiar is the position of Denmark. The Danish finance minister said yesterday that, while a monetary mini-Europe would not be desirable, Denmark would want to take part in the fast-lane if it cannot be avoided. This puts the Danish "ney" to Maastricht into perspective. The mini-Europe may be rather larger than expected.

Mark Newman
examines how BT's
main competitor is
planning to extend its
business with a national
advertising campaign

Six years after opening its public telephone service, Mercury Communications is at last preparing for a major assault on BT's monopoly of the residential and small business market. A national advertising campaign with the message "Mercury gives you value for money" will reach television screens this autumn.

Rod Atwood, Mercury's newly-appointed managing director, believes that within five to ten years, Mercury will be deriving a third of its revenues from residential customers, a third from small business and a third from large companies. It currently takes 80 per cent of its revenues from large companies, most of the rest from small businesses and only a tiny per cent from residential customers. Mercury has 250,000 residential customers compared to BT's total of 18 million residential lines.

Mr Atwood says that a targeting of the residential market "is the next logical stage of growth for Mercury after having spent five to six years in the business area". The company had to concentrate on the business market initially, he says, to recover its capital investment. The Cable and Wireless subsidiary has so far invested close to £2 billion building its network.

He acknowledges that the thinking behind this is that "it wouldn't make sense to run the risk of keeping all our revenues in one basket". If Mercury could be sure that the top end of the business market continued to show improving growth and profit potential, it might be less concerned about the move down market.

But within the last year, BT has started to provide bulk discount schemes to large users to slow down migration to Mercury. It even has a special "winback" team whose job it is to advise BT account managers on how to lure back customers. The team has targeted 2,000 customers across the UK that it wants to win back.

BT is not the only threat. A number of new companies are planning to enter the UK telecoms market. Like Mercury in its formative years, they will be targeting large businesses. Companies which have already applied to the trade department for telecommunications licences include Sprint, the American long-distance operator; World Com, the Geneva group; as well as Yorkshire Electricity and Scottish Power.

The highly-profitable international telephone services business, meanwhile, is being hit by a downward trend in tariffs resulting from new competition and efforts by large users and international bodies, such as the European Commission, to eliminate the discrepancies between international tariffs and long-distance national tariffs.

Tim Hurst, a telecoms analyst at



Side by side: Mercury aims to move into BT's territory with small business and residential customers

Kleinwort Benson, thinks Mercury has also been influenced by "a need to be seen to get into the residential market". The whole idea of bringing in competition to BT in the early 1980s, he says, "was to give a better deal to the man on the street".

Mercury has been criticised by user groups for failing to give BT a run for its money in the residential telephone business. Mr Hurst says: "It is not in Mercury's interest to create an environment where the government wants to bring in more competition."

Even if Mercury had wanted to move into the residential market before now, its dependence on other operators to deliver its long-distance and international services to customers would have limited the number to whom it could offer a service.

Because Mercury has no intention of duplicating BT's network of cable, it has to carry the first leg of any call on BT lines until it reaches the nearest Mercury switch. International calls are handled over by Mercury to the operator in the relevant country. National calls are delivered right to the called party, if they are directly connected to Mercury. But in most instances, Mercury has to hand the call back to BT.

A better solution for Mercury is to link up with a different local tele-

phone company. The cable television companies are the only option at present, although in future, Mercury is optimistic that local operators will set up using radio signals.

As far as carrying calls over BT lines is concerned, this requires costly modifications to be made to BT exchanges so that they can pick up Mercury calls. BT and Mercury have been quibbling over how much Mercury should pay for these modifications for several years. For a long time, Mercury was only able to reach 50 per cent of the country's telephone subscribers. Even now, it can only reach 80 per cent of subscribers.

The problem with using the cable television companies to deliver long-distance services is that Mercury has had to wait for them to build their local television and telephone networks. The cable television companies have struggled to meet the deadlines for building their networks laid down by Ofcom, the telecoms regulator, and only within the last year have they begun to take on subscribers in large numbers. In the first six months of this year, cable companies installed nearly 27,000 lines, an increase of 125 per cent. Mercury's residential advertising

campaign will drive home the message that it is cheaper than BT for long-distance calls. Which? the Consumers' Association's magazine, ran a survey of BT and Mercury services in August and found that at economy rates, Mercury cuts BT charges by between 28 per cent and 41 per cent on long-distance calls and by up to 20 per cent on international calls. It advised consumers to switch to Mercury if they spent more than £12 a quarter on calls outside their local areas during economy periods. Below this, Mercury is not worth considering because there is an £8.81 a year subscription charge and you also have to buy a special Mercury compatible phone. This is in addition to BT rental charges.

Soon, however, there will be no need to buy a special Mercury phone. Mercury's advertising campaign will coincide with the launch of a new service aimed at the residential market called Easy Access. Any phones will be able to access the Mercury network — even the old rotary dial telephones — although it will still cost £8.81 a year for the right to do so.

All you need to do to make a call via Easy Access is dial 132 and proceed with the call. When you have a Mercury phone, you have to press a

special blue button before making a call.

There is one drawback, however. With the blue-button and 132 options. If the caller forgets to press the blue button or dial 132 first, the call will automatically be routed via BT. Mercury would like to introduce a service available for some time in America called equal access.

Mercury's advertising campaign will tell the public about the benefits it can offer without going into the specifics about whether you are better off buying the service from a cable television company, a Mercury phone type subscription or Easy Access. This, after all, could confuse the subscriber.

The company wants people to follow up their interest in its advertising by calling and finding out how they can take Mercury. The operator will then be able to tell the caller whether cable television is arriving soon. If it is possible to take an indirect connection and whether or not he or she needs to buy a new telephone. If Mercury is not available in the caller's particular area, Mercury will be able to say when it is due to arrive.

Partnerships with the cable television companies are Mercury's preferred option because it avoids having to use BT. But Mercury's relationships with the cable companies have not been without their problems and in the longer term, they could become competitors rather than partners.

Some operators complain that Mercury has gone after business customers in their franchise areas. Others are unhappy about the margins that they receive from Mercury for telephone calls.

As soon as they have enough subscribers, many cable operators will buy their own switches and become independent operators rather than merely local agents for Mercury. In the longer term, cable television operators in the London area intend to link their networks together, which would mean bypassing Mercury altogether.

These concerns may be behind talks between Cable and Wireless and US West, a regional US telephone operator with stakes in 17 cable television franchises, with a view to selling a stake in Mercury and, possibly, Mercury taking a stake in US West's cable operations.

If US West had a stake in Mercury there would be little sense in it competing for the same customers, or building separate links to bypass Mercury. On the other hand, Mercury might run the risk of alienating other cable television operators.

Mr Atwood denies, however, that there is any long-term danger of partnerships breaking down. "The task of building a local network is so huge," he says, "it would make more sense to do this as a partnership."

Mercury does realise, however, that some cable television companies might one day decide not to use its services. Mr Atwood is keen, therefore, to develop a range of services and benefits that people associate with Mercury and which they will specifically request from their local telephone company.

BUSINESS LETTERS

Removing occupational pensions from the control of employers

From Sean Hand

Sir, As a pensions lawyer, I found David Blake's article (The Times, September 18) stimulating and thought provoking.

The single greatest failure of the present legal framework is its inability to cope with the inherent conflict of interest between employers, trustees and beneficiaries in final salary occupational pension schemes.

It seems to me that Mr Blake's proposals would remove most of these conflicts. The characterisation of pensions (as distinct from contributions) as deferred pay, fails to recognise the fact that schemes are primarily intended to be savings vehicles of their members, comprising not only employer contributions, but also employee contributions and investment return.

The fact that an employer chooses to contribute to a pension scheme is hardly justification for the retention of occupational schemes under employer control. Indeed, some employers may welcome release from the responsibilities for administering the schemes which they have established.

Mr Blake's proposal that schemes be completely independent of employers is a logical extension of the separation of assets principle so central in trust law. The independent fund management group would reduce opportunities for employer theft from

schemes and achieve greater security of scheme assets.

Most interesting, however, is Mr Blake's recognition of the need for occupational schemes (including final salary schemes) to match the "portability" of personal pensions and the unitised basis of valuations of accrued benefits.

The inability of many final salary schemes to provide this form of regular investment information is leading many employees to prefer money purchase arrangements, despite the fact that in the long term they may be less beneficial.

If Mr Blake's proposals are too radical for Professor Goodie's Committee to countenance, it may be worth remembering that the government's commitment to achieving a level playing field between different types of pension provision, would be considerably enhanced if employees were entitled to request that employer pension contributions be directed to a scheme of their choice, if they did not wish to join their employer's scheme.

Yours faithfully,
SEAN HAND,
Cameron Markby Hewitt,
Sceptre Court,
40 Tower Hill,
EC3N.

Finding it hard to keep a straight face

From Nicholas Buser

Sir, Surely Mrs Pauline Graham is expecting too much in asking for sombre photographs of CEOs whose companies have downgraded their profits.

After all, if she had just increased her earnings, avoid-

Be magnanimous and forget the trials of Taurus

From Mildred Bateman

Sir, Doctor J. D. Jackson writes, (Business Letters, September 15), of his interest-free loan to his son, the repayment of which is overdue.

Dr Jackson holds his son's only share certificate, of similar value to the loan, as an informal collateral and asks how, with the advent of Taurus, he can prevent the sale of this holding without his own knowledge.

As a parent of three children, each of whom has a university honours degree, I am well conditioned to finding children a dead weight upon one's hands.

Since that time, £4,000 has been contributed to further courses, which were once the distinctive role of the local authorities, for training and promotion.

The net result is that my children have never contributed to this family home, though their visits provide great enjoyment.

My advice to Dr Jackson is to give back the share certificate to his son and declare that the loan is now deemed to have been a gift.

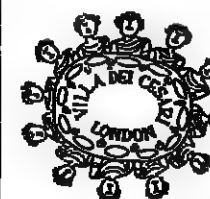
The doctor is a man of far greater substance than his son. He should be concerned that a relationship of mutual regard should last into his latter days.

He should prefer, I so, to be

remembered as a magnanimous father than as an old skinflint who exacted terms at a time of no choice. I would assure him that a new attitude will stand him in good stead. He can forget Taurus and

all its works in a peace that passeth all understanding!

Yours faithfully,
MILDRED BATEMAN,
44 Ridge Road,
Kingswinford,
West Midlands.



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THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Not 'resigning' but 'consulting'

THE Terry Smith fallout continues to rock UBS Phillips & Drew where it emerges that Chris Cawcutt, head of personnel, has now resigned. Cawcutt handled the initial disciplinary meeting when Smith, the former P&D head of research, first launched his controversial book, *Accounting for Growth*, in August. Smith was finally fired on September 7 and Cawcutt's resignation letter followed a few days later. Yesterday, a P&D representative denied that Cawcutt had been fired or forced to resign after criticism of the way P&D handled the Smith affair. According to the spokesperson, Cawcutt, in his mid-40s, wants to "pursue a career in consultancy". He was definitely not fired or requested to step down. "Cawcutt will continue to be employed by P&D until the end of the year, although from October it appears he will be seen less in house, his consultancy role taking almost immediate effect. "In fact, he has only agreed to stay on to the year end to handle the Terry Smith affair. He will be acting as a consultant on the matter," P&D said last night.

Short break

THE old hands at the Stock Exchange know how to have a good joke but one misfired on Friday when Brian Winterford of Winterford Securities put up a spoof Airbreak holiday for auction at the Stock Exchange Veterans dinner. Everyone present knew that



Airbreak had collapsed that day — except, it seems, one senior bond dealer from Warburg. The dealer, who must remain unnamed, seemed determined to outbid Winterford to win the Airbreak holiday for four. Terry Buckland of UBS Phillips & Drew, chairman of the vets, says Winterford was in a frenzy as the Warburg man, somewhat the worse for drink, raised his bid. "He kept upping it by £50 and we thought he'd go on for ever, so Brian let him win at £500," Buckland says. The vets wisely refused the £500 cheque for the non-existent holiday — "We could have been sued," says Buckland — leaving Winterford to donate £500, rather more than he had intended, towards the £15,000 raised for charity.

Scissors at dawn

THE election of a new Lord Mayor takes place tomorrow and City barbers have their scissors poised anticipating which of them he will favour. Sir Brian Jenkins, the current

Lord Mayor, is firmly wedded to Khops in Bow Lane. Khops' Mr Lee has been cutting Sir Brian's hair for more than 20 years and was given the freedom of the City of London on Sir Brian's recommendation. But rival barber Geoffrey's, next to the Royal Exchange, claims it has been the preferred mayoral choice since 1934. Francis McWilliams, an international arbitrator, expected to be confirmed mayor tomorrow, is keeping them guessing. He lives in St Albans and is not known to have a regular City barber.

CNW rings

MORE decisive action at County NatWest, with Philip Augar, head of global equities since July, having just recruited specialist salesman Andy Bell, 32, from Kleinwort Benson. Bell and analyst Jamie Stevenson have for four years been Exel's number one team in both building materials and contracting and construction. They were also this year's "All Star" cross-sector team. Bell joins County in January as head of specialist sales where he will be charged with injecting some of his style into other specialist areas. He will, in addition, head sales in conglomerates and other industrial materials. Bell says his great regret will be splitting up with Stevenson, an old personal and family friend. The two came together eight years ago at Savory Millin and moved to Wood Mackenzie. Ironically, they left when NatWest bought the broker in 1987.

DEBRA ISAAC

Letters to the Business and Finance section of The Times can be sent by fax on 071-782 5112.

CAROL LEONARD

compensation committees, Cromer roundly declared that Parliament and government shared responsibility

Yours faithfully,
ALAN SMALLBONE,
30 Temple Fortune Lane,
NW11.

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THE TIMES TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 29 1992

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-21	New York	1.1715	1.1710	1.2720	1.2800	0.88-0.87	24-26s
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-34	Stockholm	9.3940	9.4390	9.3940	9.4120	11 1/2-12 1/2	23-30s
-34	Tokyo	205.12	206.95	206.72	206.93	1 1/2-3	21-21s
-46	Zurich	17.66	17.80	9 1/2-10	9 1/2-10	1 1/2-3	21-21s
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Deutsche Mark	3-1/4	3-1/2%	3-3/4	3-3/4	3-3/4	
French Franc	15-1/2	12-1/4	11-1/2	10-3/4	15-1/2	
Swiss Franc	7-7/8	6-3/4	6-3/4	6-3/4	7-5/8	
Yen	4-1/4	4-1/4	4-1/2	3-3/4	4-1/4	

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Closing date for completed application forms 12 noon Wednesday 26 October. Interviews 11 and 13 November 1992.

Sally Hughes looks at the unfamiliar area of mass environmental litigation



A community's fears: anti-nuclear power demonstrators greet visitors at an open day at Sellafield. Leukaemia claims will be heard next month

Fighting the polluters

Christopher Key, a partner in the law firm Sproules, of Bodmin and Cornwall, used to spend his summer holidays on the Cornish beach and his evenings sailing. That was until 1989. Almost overnight his caseload of 200 active files increased to 350 as waves of new clients arrived with claims against the South West Water Authority.

The authority had negligently dumped 20 tonnes of aluminium sulphate in Cornwall's drinking water. Contrary to the authority's claim that the water was safe to drink, many local people suffered short-term and long-term symptoms, which they blame on the incident.

Mr Key laid up his boat early that year and buckled down to deal with one of the UK's first mass actions against polluters. This is a new area for lawyers.

The skills and logistics of getting such a big show on the road pose enormous practical problems and diverge from traditional practice, rooted in the individualisation of conflict. The subject matter and aspects of the law are unfamiliar territory for the courts — so much so that Charles Pugh, a barrister, and Martyn Day, a solicitor, have written *Toxic Torts*, a guide for professionals, support groups and anybody else interested in this litigation minefield.

The area is so new that actions begun in the late 1980s are just beginning to reach the courts. Next month the claims of childhood leukaemia sufferers from the area around Sellafield will be tried in the High Court. In November the Court of Appeal will consider the pre-trial issue of whether to strike out the Camelford residents' claim that exemplary damages be awarded on top of the usual compensation for personal injury. This means that at least three years after proceedings started the claims have not reached the courts.

Ten of Mr Key's clients are still pursuing court cases. Out-



Playing safe: bottled water had to be used at Camelford

ers have settled. Other plaintiffs were represented by different solicitors. Mr Key's involvement was a kind of accident of geography, typical in pollution cases, which resulted, as *Toxic Torts* says, in his being "thrown in at the deep end". In fact, Mr Key is a personal injury specialist in his locality, and says that merely being in a country practice does not rule out the availability of expertise. "All around the country there are bright people who are able to take on such cases and fight them hard," he says. "No matter who handles it, it is always difficult dealing with a big defendant with tons

of money." Luckily his firm had just installed a new computer system and soon evolved standard forms and precedents to lighten the load of sheer paperwork. Working hours increased drastically. Thus far, this familiar. However, all the recent "disaster" cases have benefited from a certain amount of collective action by lawyers, generally in the form of a steering committee that decides tactics and pools information.

Mr Key found it difficult to work as part of a steering committee, being accustomed to having the sole care of one case at a time. "It is hard to

make decisions that are fair to everybody's clients," he says. But these practices are in their infancy.

In future the plaintiff's hand will also be strengthened by new legal aid contracts for multi-party actions, available since June,

which aim to deal with claims en bloc, to award "generic" work to one firm able to submit the strongest tender, and to get money moving into the work fast. This is also an area, say Mr Pugh and Mr Day, "where it is highly appropriate for the lawyer to take an interventionist role".

Solicitors and law centres, particularly those who are near the pollution hot spots, are developing a more proactive strategy.

The Camelford claims were "client-initiated" — clients knew they should go to a lawyer. However, in other cases those affected may not realise they can take action, often because the complex links between cause and effect are obscure.

Plaintiffs' lawyers must gather and deploy scientific knowledge, ahead of a potential action. This means not only keeping up with medical and scientific research, but also being prepared sometimes to go ahead without wholehearted scientific support when illness is "obviously" caused by pollution.

A court will decide for the plaintiff if it believes that the pollution was more likely than not to have caused the injury. A 51 per cent probability will weigh on the winning side.

The scientific community, however, will not admit a causative link to its canons without 95 per cent certainty.

Nevertheless, the sheer quantity of science can be daunting. The pre-trial disclosure process in the Sellafield cases took two years and has resulted in what Mr Pugh and Mr Day estimate to be hun-

dreds of thousands of pages of scientific documentation alone.

These are high stakes cases. The cost of the Sellafield trial could run to £20 million. If liability is shown, the future cost of radiation poisoning to Britain's nuclear industry will be immense.

Mr Key has been deservedly re-united with his boat this summer. For lawyers all over the country, however, the coming fight for the environment could be their finest hour.

Toxic Torts, written by Charles Pugh and Martyn Day, is available from Cameron Map. The price is £46, including postage and packing.

The scientists demand 95 per cent certainty to prove cause

The lawyer must take on an interventionist role in this area

INNS AND OUTS

Pricey London

LAWYERS in big City law firms are now the world's dearest. The 1993 *International Financial Law Review 1000*, the law firms directory, out next week, finds that a partner in a City firm costs an average of \$585 (about £344) an hour, compared with a top American rate of \$350. UK firms are followed closely by German lawyers, average \$510, and the Swiss, \$445. During the past year, British firms have raised rates by 20 per cent, partly reflecting the pound-dollar rate and the tendency to calculate rates on fewer billable hours than do Americans.

Green court

LORD Justice Woolf, who takes his seat in the House of Lords this week, is leading the call for a "one-stop shop" European environmental court. At the International Bar Association in Cannes last week, he said the "amorphous corpus" of legislation making up what is known as environmental law creates "problems of adjudication which are quite distinct from those which our existing courts are best equipped to deal with". Enforcement was particularly

On the attack

WHILE legal aid lawyers were digesting their proposed new pay rates published last week, Stephen Gilchrist, of Hart Fortgang, was at the International Bar Association rallying against government policy. He said the profession had no "confidence in the government's ability or integrity to deal properly with the legal aid scheme" or provide for "those vulnerable clients for whom the profession acts". His audience included people from countries where basic human rights are ignored and the poor are denied access to the law. In the Philippines, 70 per cent of people cannot afford a lawyer except on a no-win-no-fee

basis, and the lawyer takes 60 per cent of the award. So there was some longing to have problems like Mr Gilchrist's.

Stars of the Bar
THE International Bar Association meeting attracted nearly 3,000 lawyers eager for



a mixture of sun, sea, law and cocktails. The sumptuous opening buffet on the beach, with food from all the regions of France and fireworks, attracted a crowd looking out for movie stars. They soon left when they found only lawyers, but not before a few kind locals offered to conduct a

whip-round for the legal profession, which was obviously suffering badly from the recession.

Picture this

BACK in London, lawyers were out in force for the private view of a watercolours exhibition by the Alexander Brothers, Gregory and Matthew, at the Catto Gallery, sponsored by KPMG Management Consulting Europe. They were too shellshocked by the news of the economy and sterling's collapse to dig deep into their pockets, but amid talk of rapid descent the former international diver, Frank Dufficy, of Cameron Mackay Hewitt, entertained his audience with a replay of great dives from the Barcelona Olympics. His description of how to take a running jump was the only one not directed at Norman Lamont.

Swift justice

LORD Williams QC and John Rowe QC, chairman and vice-chairman of the Bar respectively, who were in Argentina recently to advise the country on adopting an English-type system, were surprised to learn that the justice minister, Dr Leon Anselman, resigned immediately after seeing them. He was protesting about judges being appointed on criteria other than merit.

SCRIVENOR

An Act of faith in the wisdom of the courts

JUDGES, magistrates, criminal practitioners, probation officers and others will have to alter some of their practices under the Criminal Justice Act 1991, which comes into force on Thursday. The Act imposes a more rigorous framework on sentencing, introduces "unit fines" to all courts, abolishes the former remission and parole system, places 17-year-olds in new youth courts, and makes other changes to children's evidence.

The Act contains important principles from which attention can be distracted by other, obscurely worded provisions. Several sections restrict courts, but the main structure leaves them with wide discretion, especially in applying "the seriousness of the offence" concept. It aims to foster a partnership between Parliament, which would decide the general principles, and the courts, which would develop the practical details. Whether the partnership will work may depend on whether judges and magistrates are persuaded. There are three potential sticking points.

● The Act can be taken to outlaw "exemplary sentences" disproportionate to the seriousness of the offence. But might the courts regard an offence as more serious because of its prevalence, such as an outbreak of joy-riding? If so, would this not undermine the Act by reintroducing exemplary sentences?

● Second, the Act says an offence is not more serious just because the offender has previous convictions, although courts may mitigate for a good record. The aim is to prevent heavy sentences on people who commit several minor offences. To what extent will section 29 (2), allowing courts to consider whether "the circumstances of other offences" aggravate this offence, be used to circumvent the basic principle?

● Third, where courts are sentencing a defendant for more than two offences, the decision on whether the case is serious enough for a community sentence or custody must be taken by considering only two of the offences. The aim is to stop several minor offences being aggravated so that the offender is dealt with as a major

criminal. Will section 29 (2) be adapted to dilute this principle, too?

Lord Taylor, the new Lord Chief Justice, must give guidance swiftly if inconsistent interpretations are not to take root.

The criminal appeals office must be urged to direct suitable cases to his court at the earliest opportunity, so that he and his colleagues can lay down interpretations of section 29 (2) and other controversial provisions. One of Lord Lane's achievements as Lord Chief Justice was to develop the technique of the sentencing guideline judgment. Lord Taylor should now take the difficult but necessary step of applying this technique to common crimes such as theft. The Magistrates' Association has issued informal guidance for magistrates' courts, but there is virtually nothing on these everyday offences. One effect of the abolition of remission and discretionary parole for prisoners serving less than four years is that many sentences of this length will now mean longer inside. The Carlisle Committee, which recommended the changes, said the courts must cut sentences to compensate. The Act, sadly, says nothing about this. The Lord Chief Justice must announce that this should be done, and say how it should be achieved. The first year will be a test of power and duty. The government has

made the Act's policies clear: long sentences for serious offenders and for the "dangerous", more community sentences and less prison for the less serious offenders, particularly those who commit several minor offences. Will the Court of Appeal be tempted to endorse the policies that accord with previous practices and to "read down" other sections? Will the lower courts follow suit, or will they strive to retain as many of their former practices as possible?

ANDREW ASHWORTH

● The author is professor of law at King's College London. His book, *Sentencing and Criminal Justice*, was published by Weidenfeld & Nicolson in August.



Inside: will sentences be shorter?

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are not on the agenda, adding bell, 48, Greg Morgan, 47, and Mike Oxide, 47. Knight

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Philip Goldenberg explains the pitfalls

In addition, even if a company is

First, directors as a whole will have increased responsibilities. In the case of a prospectus or listing particulars, giving information about a company, statute law imposes criminal or civil liabilities if information is inaccurate. This is extended by the Financial Services Act covering a range of other documents that are deemed to consti-

Liability: Kevin Maxwell after bankruptcy order was made against him

● **Keep it green:** There are also statutory obligations on a company where, to achieve greater compliance, the law says penalties for non-compliance may be personally exacted from individual directors.

This is particularly true on environmental matters, and it is a foolish board of directors that does not, in circumstances where the company's

- **Insolvency:** The key area where the personal liability of directors has come to the fore is that of insolvency. If a company carries on trading when it has no reasonable prospect of paying its debts as and when they fall due, then directors who authorise this conduct or negligently fail to prevent it may end up being made personally liable without limit for all or part of the company's debts.

Becoming a company director is a little like getting married. One would not go to the extreme of the traditional Advice to Those Getting Married: "Don't"; but one would at least say that becoming a company director should not be done lightly, wantonly or ill-advisedly.

● *The author is a partner with the City solicitors S.J. Berwin & Co.*

example, has done extensive work on Czechoslovakia's association agreement with the European Community, but has shifted the emphasis of its work away from the government and towards

Look cynically at central Europe and the view is bleak. However, it may be one of the last great frontiers for the law.

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Our Salary Survey

The increase in earnings of in-house lawyers this year was the lowest our survey has ever recorded - 3.2%. The only year we showed a similar fall was in 1977, the time of the Labour Government's statutory wage controls, when earnings increased by 3.8%. Other recent surveys covering management remuneration have also shown the lowest increases for decades. Clearly, the recession is giving the government the result it is striving for: monetary deflation. It hurts, but as Mr Major would say, it is 'working'.

Not all in-house lawyers' earnings have kept to 3.2%. Those in their 30s have fared best, the largest rise being for Senior Legal Advisers in the 30-34 age group - from £22,068 to £25,520. There are a few instances, however, of earnings actually falling. Senior Legal Advisers aged 45 to 60 saw a drop from £24,752 to £21,421, and Legal Advisers aged 40-44 dropped from £25,065 to £23,742.

The highest paid in-house lawyers are the Senior Legal Advisers aged 40-44. Their average remuneration is £22,139. The top 10% of them earn £171,250; the bottom 10% earn £56,115.

Perhaps the most worrying trend to emerge from our survey is the decline of manufacturing industry in our 'pay-league'. Oil and banking, top the league year after year, but manufacturing has fallen from 5th to 8th position. This must reflect the severe trauma that this sector of industry is going through. The very heart of our economy is in chronic decline, while the government celebrates one brilliant victory after another in its crusade against inflation.

Michael Chambers

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Ferguson's team faces vital game

United may give Robson one more final fling

FROM DAVID MILLER IN MOSCOW

MANCHESTER United, for so long the financial kings of English football if not the playing force they used to be, face potential financial difficulty with an over-manned and overpaid playing staff. Declining attendances, even if offset by an increase in ticket prices, worsen the situation. It is, therefore, important that they survive this afternoon in the Uefa Cup here against Torpedo Moscow.

To do so, they will depend on Peter Schmeichel, of Denmark, probably the best goalkeeper in Europe, and may simultaneously gamble on one more last fling by the veteran Bryan Robson. Given Torpedo's collective skills and United's present uncertain League form, the Russians

said to be the youngest team in European competition, may have the stronger controlling influence on a brittle outcome.

In a second leg finely balanced after a goalless draw at Old Trafford, United have a marginal advantage from the added value of any away goal; consequently Torpedo will, as Alex Ferguson expects, have to be careful defensively. Another goalless draw is possible, but Ferguson has not had his squad practising penalties. "That wouldn't be the right input, it would encourage the players to think 'he doesn't fancy us'," Ferguson said.

Were everyone fit, the critical choice would concern that of Robson or Phelan as replacement for Darren Ferguson in central midfield

alongside Ince. But Martin, the right back, has a stomach virus and is doubtful; the replacement will be Parker, who has yet to play a first-team match this season, or Phelan. If it is Phelan, then Robson would be asked to play a defensive midfield role.

"It's difficult to talk to him about it, because he's so determined, and I have the feeling he wants to play," Ferguson said. "If I ask him if he's ready [following Saturday's satisfactory reserve match] he'll tell me he is, and I'll probably wait until the morning to discuss it with him." Robson's last appearance was against Liverpool in April when United surrendered any remaining hope of the League title.

On his present fitness, Ferguson thinks Robson can give the team between 45 minutes and an hour, perhaps enough to help dissolve Torpedo's momentum and motivation, being the less experienced team. As there appears to be no space for Webb, who then, one wonders, will create the goals?

With Schmeichel, Hughes and McClair, the three permitted foreigners, there is no room either for Kanchelskis, so Wallace will again be on the opposite flank, this time with Gigg. While Ferguson must be glad of the available permutations today, the surfeit of expensive players such as Webb and Wallace — who cannot find regular places but would be reluctant to move and thereby accept an inevitable drop in wages — presents the club with a long-term financial dilemma.

The indisputable individual strength in the team is Schmeichel, so outstanding in the European championship, unbeaten 26 times last season and now on six occasions this season. "He has presence, an aura," Ferguson reflected. "We'll hope to keep it tight and let Torpedo do the worrying. We'll be trying to hold on to the ball."

That is an ambitious hope, for Torpedo have showed an ability to retain possession. They will still be without the talented Tishkov, who has controversially been receiving treatment from Sheffield Wednesday, who would like to buy him. Torpedo may include Pozomov who scored twice in a 3-2 victory on Saturday, but the man United must fear is the elusive Talalayev at centre forward.



Saving grace: United bank on Schmeichel to keep them in European competition

Ferguson vows to lose misfit tag

IAN Ferguson, the Rangers midfielder player, has promised to use his tenth European match to help him lose the tag of million-pound misfit.

Ferguson, 25, has become the driving force in the Ibrox side this season yet still believes he has to justify his move from St Mirren four years ago. He could go a long way towards doing that by ensuring Rangers overcome Lyngby tomorrow to reach the second round of the European Cup.

"People keep writing about me as the £1 million flop," Ferguson said. "I would love to justify the money Rangers paid for me and get rid of this tag. That means staying in the team and winning some honours at the end of the season."

Ferguson has made only 20 league appearances in the past two seasons because of a succession of injuries, including a hernia operation. But his outstanding recent form means he will make his ninth successive start in Copenhagen as Rangers defend a 2-0 first leg lead.

Airdrieonians travel to Czechoslovakia, trailing Sparta Prague 1-0 in the Cup Winners' Cup, with injury problems to resolve before the second leg. John Martin, their goalkeeper, and Jimmy Sandison, the captain, are receiving treatment.

Alex MacDonald, the Airdrie manager, said: "Jimmy has needed an icepack on a leg knock while John has strained his neck. At the moment, we are monitoring their progress." Phil Burns, the reserve goalkeeper, is on stand-by and, if Sandison is ruled out, Gus Caesar could return.

Liam Brady, the Celtic manager, yesterday blamed a "basic lack of professionalism" for his team's run of poor results. He conceded that it would require a "special performance" to overturn a 2-0 deficit against Cologne in their Uefa Cup first round second leg in Glasgow.

Celtic have suffered four defeats in their last five games, including the reverse in Germany a fortnight ago, and Brady said: "There has been a basic lack of professionalism and we've been punished."

"In general play, there hasn't been too much to gripe about but, at certain times, we've been let down. The supporters were happy with what they saw for 80 minutes or so against Partick Thistle on Saturday then we shot ourselves in the foot."

"We lost a goal from a corner against Aberdeen and Partick's winner also came from a corner. The players must start making the right decision at the right time."

"More than 50 per cent of the goals we've lost recently have been from set-pieces," he said. "It's not as if we have lost to better teams and that's what makes things even more galling. If we lose to a better side, I'm prepared to hold up my hands and admit it."

"Saturday was another bad defeat but it doesn't alter my thinking that we can beat Cologne. If we play to our capabilities, I still feel we can do it, although it will take a special performance."

"Two weeks ago, things were going fine and, as quickly as they turned bad, they can turn good again."

Brady's toughest decision tomorrow will be to pick three "foreigners" from a group of five non-Scots. An injury to the Pole, Dariusz Wondolowski, is likely to reduce the number to four and Pat Bonner, the Ireland goalkeeper, may make way for Gordon Marshall.

Heart of Midlothian, Scotland's other Uefa Cup representatives, have injury worries for their second leg against Slavia Prague at Tynecastle. Hearts hope to overturn a 1-0 deficit but John Robertson, their leading scorer, is still struggling to shake off a hamstring problem and Gary Mackay is also doubtful.

"Despite the injury, Zoff is considering Gascoigne for Lazio's fixture against Parma next Sunday. 'I have to see what Paul's condition is before I make a decision,' he said yesterday. 'I wasn't too worried about his big accident. He would have played for a few minutes more.'"

Although Zoff was under pressure from the club president, Sergio Cragnotti, to include his English international, he was coming under increasing criticism for playing Gascoigne at all yesterday. *La Gazzetta dello Sport*, the national sports paper, said: "Lazio have learned a lesson. Gascoigne is a long way off and the storm is gathering. If there was one person who might have known that the Englishman was still unfit and who had made that absolutely clear after Wednesday's friendly with Tottenham that one person was Zoff."

Gascoigne, clearly relieved, said: "What I needed was something like this on my knee and thank God everything is okay. It is nothing, but I came off for cautious reasons, just in case. Now it feels okay."

Lazio allay injury fears

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

LAZIO, the Italian football club, yesterday set out to calm fears that Paul Gascoigne had suffered a setback in his efforts to recover from the knee injury that had threatened his career. The club's manager, Dino Zoff, doctor and even the player himself said that although Gascoigne was substituted on his league debut in Rome on Sunday after being struck on the knee, the problem was only a minor one.

For a while, it had seemed Gascoigne's return after 18 months on the sidelines would be short-lived. Just before half-time in Lazio's game with Genoa, a tackle from Mario Bortoluzzi, the Genoa midfielder, left the Englishman hobbling badly and, when he failed to reappear for the second half, it was thought he may have aggravated the ligament injury in his right knee sustained in the 1991 FA Cup final.

Yesterday, however, the Lazio club doctor, Claudio Bartolini, said that Gascoigne had merely suffered bruising to the knee on the sciatic nerve, which had caused a dead leg. "It has been a good test on his knee and it has come through," he said. "We need 24 hours to evaluate the situation properly. This kind of injury on a normal knee can provide problems for up to a week. He didn't ask to come off. I said it was better for him not to go back on, but I didn't think it was a big problem."

Gascoigne, clearly relieved, said: "What I needed was something like this on my knee and thank God everything is okay. It is nothing, but I came off for cautious reasons, just in case. Now it feels okay."

"Despite the injury, Zoff is considering Gascoigne for Lazio's fixture against Parma next Sunday. 'I have to see what Paul's condition is before I make a decision,' he said yesterday. 'I wasn't too worried about his big accident. He would have played for a few minutes more.'"

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Knighton's crusade claims first victim

BY LOUISE TAYLOR

AIDAN McCaffery became the first manager in the Football League to be dismissed this season when he parted company with Carlisle United yesterday. He was asked to clear his desk less than a week after the Cumbrian club had held Norwich City to a 2-2 draw at Brunton Park in the Coca-Cola Cup.

League results had not gone so well — Carlisle are seventeenth in the third division — but are an improvement on last season, when United finished at the foot of the fourth division.

Since then Michael Knighton, who once tried to buy Manchester United, has taken control of the club. It was apparent from the outset that he and McCaffery, 35, who played as a defender with Newcastle United and Bristol Rovers, would not see eye to eye.

Knighton has a ten-year plan for Carlisle which involves them reaching the Premier League and qualifying for Europe. McCaffery said: "I told Knighton his policies were wrong the first day I met

him. A club that spends no money on players is not likely to reach the Premier League."

Knighton intends to appoint a temporary player-coach while he searches for a permanent successor to McCaffery. David McCreery, the former Manchester United and Northern Ireland midfielder player, may fill that role.

There is no guarantee of any great job security at Brunton Park. Knighton said yesterday: "Our 2-0 defeat at home to Southampton United was unacceptable. The players let the manager down and have got to know I am not prepared to tolerate that sort of performance. I cannot go out and sack every player but I can demonstrate that I am a man who means business. It is up to me to find a replacement and that replacement will be put under pressure."

"This football club has got to get out of this division and out of the next one and the next one until it is in the Premier League and I do not know how many managers that is going to take."

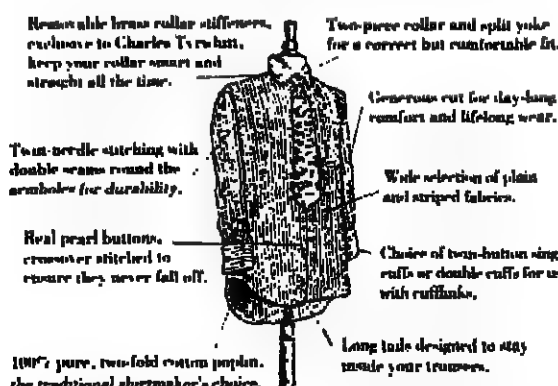
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Brooke must seize chance to provide needed leadership

BY JOHN GOODBODY

IN LESS than six months as secretary of state in the department of national heritage, David Mellor did not have time to address, let alone answer, the central questions of British sport. His successor, Peter Brooke, must now decide whether the government is going to provide the necessary leadership, or whether we are going to continue with a lack of focus, with a multiplicity of organisations and with finance, including tax-payers' money, being badly directed.

Peter Lawson, the secretary of the Central Council of Physical Recreation, which represents the national governing bodies, said yesterday that he wanted the government to have a more active role in administration.

Lawson described the appointment of Brooke as "an inspired choice" adding that he has the "wisdom and gravitas" to look again at the government's disastrous *Review of Sport*, published by Robert Atkins, the former minister for sport.

Since Colin Moynihan's era, the post has drifted into a hand-shaking exercise, with ministers preferring to watch events and attend functions rather than to give the intelligent leadership for which British sport craves.

Robert Key, Brooke's under-secretary of state, stressed recently that good management practice and fi-

nancial controls should not be restricted to private companies. They should also embrace the public sector. However, he has yet to grasp how the lack of government control has meant that a significant problem is less shortage of money than making certain the money is used effectively.

Lawson also said that he hoped that Brooke and Key would encourage the appointment to the department of Sebastian Coe, despite the former Olympic champion's wish to broaden his political interests and also despite any government's reluctance to elevate to even junior minister someone who has been an MP for fewer than six months.

However, at the moment, Brooke and Key have to



Coe should be used

handle the media, the arts, tourism and heritage, as well as sport. Although sport comes having a secretary of state championing its cause in cabinet, Lawson said that sport does need a junior minister with specific responsibility.

"This would be an excellent opportunity for Coe to cut his teeth in ministerial work," he said. "It would be of enormous help both in the promotion of the national lottery and also Manchester's Olympic bid, to which the government has given such commitment."

"Who is better equipped to help the government's determination to get the Games than Coe? More than any other government minister, except possibly John Major, Coe is immediately recognisable to every International Olympic Committee (IOC) member. Coe led the unsuccessful London bid to stage the 2000 Games, for which the IOC will vote in September 1993, and therefore might be seen as still linked with the capital."

However, Coe has never been exclusively identified with London, because he also supported Birmingham's bid for the 1992 Games at the IOC meeting in Lausanne in 1986. The Games would be Britain's Games, whichever city staged them. And nobody knows the Olympic arena better than Coe.

Denison throws in towel

TERRY Denison has resigned as head coach to the British swimming team less than two months after 80 per cent of the squad failed to improve their times at the Barcelona Olympics (Craig Lord writes).

"I accept responsibility for what went wrong," Denison said yesterday, although he urged others, including the swimmers, to stand up and be counted.

The head coach's job, and those of his assistants, will be advertised for the first time in a shake-up of the organisation of the sport. Some coaches had complained privately about the fact that among Denison's assistants in Barcelona were Jim Park and Bob Pay, neither of whom had placed swimmers in finals at the Olympic trials.

After a six-hour meeting of coaches and swimmers on Sunday, Denison said: "I've made no secret of the fact that I'm gutted about Barcelona. We still don't have any concrete answers as to what went wrong. I feel, however, that the discussion that has gone on since has provided us with an opportunity to change the shape of British swimming for the good."

Barry Prime, coach at Birmingham to Nick Gillingham, and Dave Haller, of the City of Cardiff club, who was head coach during the successful 1970s, are among those tipped to take over.

Prost calls for look at code of conduct

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

ALAIN Prost, alarmed at Riccardo Patrese's narrow escape in the Portuguese grand prix on Sunday and Ayrton Senna's threatening attitude, has appealed to motor racing's governing body to enforce the drivers' unwritten code of conduct.

"In the last few seasons, I have been disappointed by the lax attitude of drivers in what is still a highly dangerous sport," Prost said yesterday. "I'm not for repression as such but some cases are criminal."

"It is up to the federation to apply the rules, to warn or penalise guilty drivers. With the economic interests now at stake, we have got to make sure that everyone respects the spirit of fair play."

Prost, who takes Nigel Mansell's place at Williams next year, claimed that Gerhard Berger, the Austrian driver, was to blame for the crash at Estoril on Sunday that could have cost Patrese his life.

He said Berger should have signalled he was going to pull into the pits before braking hard. "It's part of the unwritten code that seems to have been forgotten."

Patrese said he thought he would be killed when his Williams clipped the back of Berger's McLaren and somersaulted into the air.

Senna, angry at being out-maneuvred by Prost in getting the drive at Williams, accused the Frenchman of

being a coward and promised all-out war next year. "This is an astonishing thing to say and I hope the governing body takes note," Prost said.

Prost and the Brazilian had an acrimonious partnership at McLaren that carried over when the Frenchman joined Ferrari. Senna admitted he had made no attempt to avoid Prost in a crash in the Japanese grand prix two years ago.

Martin Brundle is still keeping his fingers crossed that he will get the chance to emulate Nigel Mansell's success with Williams.

He flew home on Sunday night, after finishing fourth at Estoril, knowing his ambitions to be Britain's leading driver are finely balanced.

The Williams team's confirmation of Prost to lead them in 1993 has left Brundle and Patrese fighting over the No. 2 spot alongside the Frenchman. Brundle did his chances a power of good with his seventh successive points-scoring finish and his ninth in ten races.

After Mansell, it made Brundle the most consistent driver in Formula One since May while Patrese has scored points in only four of the last eight races.

"Let's just wait and see," he said. "Anything can happen in this game. We had been promised decisions before and we are still waiting for them. I'm just going to sit tight and wait for it."



MODERN TIMES p5
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LIFE & TIMES

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 29 1992

FOCUS p7,8,9

Freshers
week: into a
brave new
world



Brains behind the bricks

Anthony Hunt is the engineer behind many a great vision

Behind every great British architect there is a great British engineer. Anthony Hunt's battle honours will soon rival those of Peter Rice, the engineer who was awarded this year's royal gold medal by the RIBA.

Mr Hunt has worked with all the big names: Sir Norman Foster at the Sainsbury centre in Norwich; Sir Richard Rogers at the Ipswich microchip centre in Wales; Michael Hopkins at the Schlumberger factory outside Cambridge; Eddred Evans and David Skelton at the Truro courthouse and most recently with Gordon Benson and Alan Forsyth on their winning entry for the National Museum of Scotland competition.

Right now he is in the public eye with the bright blue steel tube structure of the Channel terminus nearing completion at Waterloo, where he has been working with Nicholas Grimshaw.

Mr Hunt is very much at the centre of the new minimalism. He describes this as "using the minimum number of parts to do the maximum number of jobs - in a structural sense".

Stainless steel is one of his favourite materials and on his



Man of steel: Anthony Hunt

office table are a series of stainless steel castings for Waterloo Station. "They are not polished up, that's why they look like grey iron. People think of stainless steel as being shiny like cutlery, but you can achieve many degrees of finish from matt to silver."

Glass, says Mr Hunt is still the magic material. In Paris he is working on what could be the last of Mitterrand's grand projects, CCIP, an international conference centre, next to the Eiffel tower. "We got the job with a French architect two years ago. It's three great glass boxes, each 100 metres long, 50 wide and 28 high."

He set up practice on his own, when he was just 30, though he has now teamed up with one of Britain's biggest architectural practices, YRM, who are responsible for most of Warwick airport.

It is right he says to talk of a renaissance of British engineering, bringing structural design to a pitch of adventurousness, hardly seen since the age of Brunel, Stephenson and Telford. At the moment Britain is ahead of both Japan and the United States, he believes. All he regrets is that lack of vision in Britain led ministers to reject the bow-shaped bridge proposed by the Spaniard Santiago Calatrava, which would have spanned the new east Thames crossing in one giant leap.

MARCUS BINNEY

Carry On into a new world

A fresh outlook on a well-loved routine brings some familiar characters back to the silver screen.

Barry Turner on a renovated British institution

Let's get one thing straight. *Carry On* is not one of the *Carry On* series made at Pinewood under the Peter Rogers and Gerald Thomas banner. Their first was *Carry On Sergeant* made in 1958 with Bob Monkhouse in the lead. *Carry On Admiral* was a year earlier and featured Wilfrid Hyde White who went on to play the Colonel in *Carry On Nurse* (the second Rogers-Thomas effort) and ended up with a daffodil in his bottom.

It is important to know these details. Any time now *Carry On* will be a specialist subject on *Mastermind*. Why not? It is a British institution to rank with the Queen Mother, one of the few success stories of British cinema and the longest succession of films to be made by recognisably the same small group of people. There are aficionados galore queuing up to sit under the spotlight.

So what do you say when Magnus Magnusson asks, as he surely must, how many *Carry Ons* have been made by Rogers and Thomas? The answer is 29, including the latest, *Carry On Columbus* which will be at your local cinema from Friday. *Carry On Columbus* is a bit of an oddball. It is fourteen years since its predecessor *Carry On Emmanuelle* bombed at the box office. The received wisdom then was that *Carry On* had had its day. The jokes, most of which had a history going back to Marie Lloyd, were beginning to show their age.

So too were the actors. One by one, stalwarts of the *Carry On* repertory fell off the perch. Sid James, he of the cement mixer voice, was the first to go. He died in 1976 with 19 *Carry Ons* to his credit. Hattie Jacques (14 appearances) went in 1980 followed by the two camp comedians, Kenneth Williams and Charles Hawtrey who scored 25 and 23 respectively. *Carry On* survived by nostalgia butts in countless television repeats and in the video shops, an ever renewable source of income for the Rogers-Thomas partnership and irritation for their actors who had been paid a modest flat fee for their services.

Meanwhile, the new age of alternative comedy was upon us. Its exponents were rough, tough and pleased to shock. If *Carry On* was nudgy and wink, alternative comedy was a punch in the gut. After Comic Strip and Comedy Store who in their right mind would try to put new life into *Carry On*? Enter John Goldstone. This 49-year-old producer does not come across as the sort of man to throw away £2 million, which is what it has cost to make *Carry On Columbus*. He knows what works in comedy, having put together the money for the Monty Python films,

not to mention Terry Gilliam's *Jabberwocky* and Terry Jones' *Erik the Viking*. Two years ago he won backing from 20th Century Fox to set up The Comedy House. The first idea was to sell British comedy talent into America. "There was a limit to that," he says. "We reshot Rowan Atkinson's *Mr Bean* series and Ben Elton was in demand as a writer. But there are not many British performers who can adapt to the American market."

Then it occurred to Goldstone that *Carry On* might be due for a comeback. "Comedy goes in cycles. *Carry On* humour is back in fashion. You can see it on television; the kind of shows that are working are a return to a more traditional kind of comedy. Alternative comedy has become too obstructive, too inward looking."

It has to be said that *Carry On Columbus* is timely. The anniversary

'Carry On humour is back in fashion. Alternative comedy has become too inward looking'

ry brouhaha gives the subject a topical appeal and with two heavy-weight Columbus movies (Marlon Brando is in one, Gérard Depardieu plays Columbus in the other), *Carry On* is able to do what *Carry On* has always done best - which is to take the mickey out of pomposity. Remember *Carry On Cleo*? It had more entertainment value and was certainly more enduring than the Burton-Taylor farraigo, if only for the anguished cry from Kenneth Williams as Cuesar - "Infamy, Infamy. They've all got it in for me". Still, a few fondly remembered lines do not a new movie make. Goldstone had to start with a critical decision. Should he go unashamedly for nostalgia, reviving what was left of the original *Carry On* team or strike out for new characters and a younger generation of artists. In the event he did a bit of both. The old guard was led by Gerald Thomas who at 72 was signed up to direct *Carry On Columbus* in the same mechanical style as he had directed all the other *Carry Ons*.

"He was the obvious choice. No one knows *Carry On* as well as he. Anyway, there are few enough comedy directors in this country. In television, they're used to half an hour format. They can't sustain a whole movie," Goldstone says.

The critics have not been kind to Thomas but his worst enemy would have to credit him with the rare talent of working to a modest budget. He sticks to schedule come what may and if, sometimes, the joints show, well, what the hell? That's all part of the end of the pier tradition from which *Carry On* takes its best material.

With Thomas as director, it was only natural to go for another old stager as scriptwriter. Dave Freeman is a master of the pun and double entendre, who learned his trade in the 1940s writing for the best of the stand-up comics. Freeman was the writer for *Carry On Behind* in 1975 and for several of the television spin-offs such as *Carry On Christmas* (Pause for another *Mastermind* question. How many *Carry Ons* were made specifically for television? Answer 39. And, for a bonus, there were two stage shows, *Carry On London* and *Carry On Laughing* in 1973 and 1976.)

For *Carry On Columbus*, Freeman had overcome the problem that sooner or later afflicts any comedy writer. "I couldn't think of a single fact about Columbus that was in the least bit funny."

Do you need facts for a *Carry On*? "Well, you've got to start somewhere." He read some books and watched a boring film about Columbus starring Frederick March. "Then I found out that Columbus took along an interpreter. He was a Jew who thought Arabic and Chinese were the same language. Now that's funny." So was born Moishe the Navigator, discoverer of a route to the West Indies. It was the start of the script and of a sizeable role for Bernard Cribbens, veteran of two early *Carry Ons*.

In the old days, the part of Columbus, known in *Carry On* parlance as Chris, would have inevitably gone to Sid James, who, playing every role as a red-neck con-artist, might have got close to the real man. This time Jim Dale takes centre screen. The nice dim lad of ten *Carry Ons*, he has now grown to lined maturity; better looking than Sid James, though the same could be said of the Santa Maria's masthead. The new Jim Dale has discovered sex and eventually gets his woman, even if the bed does collapse under him. That would never have happened to Sid who spent all his *Carry Ons* in a frenzy of sexual frustration. Off the set was another matter, as Barbara Windsor confesses in her biography.

And talking of Barbara Windsor, where is she? Not in *Carry On Columbus*, that's for sure. There are several other unexpected absences - Bernard Bresslaw, Joan Sims, Kenneth Connor, Terry Scott. All apparently were offered



Navigating charted waters: Bernard Cribbens (left) and Julian Clary in *Carry On Columbus*

small roles but were otherwise engaged, though Connor may have spoken for all of them when he said that he wanted to be remembered as a *Carry On* principal, not a bit-part player.

In their place come the latest generation of comics, Rik Mayall, Nigel Planer, Alexei Sayle, Peter Richardson and Keith Allen. Instead of Kenneth Williams preening and strutting we have the languid mien of Julian Clary.

All the newcomers are fans of *Carry On* even if the politically motivated humour which made them famous is not in the music hall tradition. A self-confessed non-admirer, Robbie Coltrane, put himself out of the running to play Columbus. But there is a curiosity. While the young ones claim to have been much influenced by *Carry On*, they are plodders when it comes to handling the material for real. It is the oldies, including those

such as Maureen Lipman, who have never played *Carry On* before, who steal the biggest laughs. Thrusting themselves into the spirit of the farce, they ham it up like mad and Thomas knows enough to let them get away with it.

In which *Carry On* did these exchanges take place:
Man: I dreamt of you last night.
Girl: Did you?
Man: No, you wouldn't let me.
And: Girl: Do you want to get me into trouble?
Man: What time are you off duty?

The first was from *Carry On Nurse*. The second is from *Carry On at all*. It is part of Max Miller's routine, circa 1940. Plus ça change.

mindfully as if he has wandered in from another film.

Maybe the problem is that while the newcomers are comics, their elders are comic actors. Straddling the two crafts is Harold Berens, at 89 the undisputed father of the cast and a one-time stand-up comic who could top the bill at the Holborn Empire. He would certainly be able to answer this final *Mastermind* question:

In which *Carry On* did these exchanges take place:
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Girl: Did you?
Man: No, you wouldn't let me.
And: Girl: Do you want to get me into trouble?
Man: What time are you off duty?
The first was from *Carry On Nurse*. The second is from *Carry On at all*. It is part of Max Miller's routine, circa 1940. Plus ça change.

Take it as read that I wrote it

MID LIFE: Neil Lyndon on the joining up of letters

The woman at the post office looked hard at the form I had completed and passed over the counter. Her pen hovered. "What is... that?" she said.

I peevish. "What do you think it is?" She shook her head and pursed her lips. "Could be anything," she said. She made a guess: "H?"

"No." "It's not a W," she said. "Is it?" "No." "I give up."

"It's an M. Obviously."

"Is it really?" she said, as if I'd told her that it was an Icelandic rune. She looked again. "You don't half write funny, don't you?"

I had an advantage over her. I knew that it had to be an M because it was the first letter of the name of the village where I live and I wouldn't have forgotten that in the five minutes since I completed the form. Otherwise I might have been as fogged as she was. My handwriting is so bad that I often have to guess at its meaning when I try to read what I have written.

What, for instance, is the meaning of this note in my diary under

Tuesday, May 12 which appears to say "Tithes in Rhinospody"? A prayer for the day? A song in the tax collector's heart? It had me stumped for a full 30 seconds until I made it out to be "Tithes in Chap2" - a reminder to check some references in the second chapter of a book I was completing. I ply my executors if they have to make sense of my estate from my hand-written records: they'll be in Chancery until their own wills fall due for scrutiny.

Most of the letters I write begin "You do know, don't you, that I'm trying to do you a favour by typing this letter rather than the discourse of writing it by hand?" My own sons beg me not to send him hand-written letters or cards because the effort of deciphering them eats into his Segga-time. He tells me that I ought to join him in his school class. Last time we had lunch

together, he made me copy the letters of the alphabet onto a paper napkin and, studying the results, said I wasn't ready to join them up.

The evidence does not exist to support this claim but I am fairly confident that my handwriting was as good as his when I was nine. It must have been about that time when I, perverse little girl, decided that I would slope it backwards just because everybody else was doing what the teacher told them to do and sloping theirs forwards. Up to the age of 16, there was nothing wrong with the shape of my words except that they appeared to be backing towards their meanings. The gathered

weight of three years of note-taking in the sixth form and three years at university, followed by 20 years of journalism have been too much for my hand, which has collapsed from calligraphy into a private code, the key to which I frequently mislay. In the 1980s I had a secretary who had to spend so much time decoding the enigma of my notes that she got better at it than I was myself.

"What does that say?" I would ask. "I've been wondering about that," she would murmur, "and I'm pretty sure I've cracked it."

The trouble with our education system is not that they don't teach

you how to write (they do) but they don't teach you how to make notes. The senior teachers at my school acted as if we had all spent the summer at secretarial school between taking O levels and entering the sixth form and suddenly, magically, we could be expected to take notes on their lessons at the speed of their thoughts.

They didn't even teach you how to hold a pen so that it could travel over a thousand inches of paper at 50 words a second. I adapted my grip so that it became a hunched clench. A school-friend, watching me at work, said "You hold your pen like a butcher's apprentice with a hook in his hand."

My grip wasn't just ugly and inefficient: it also left a physical mark. Thirty years of pushing pens left me with a permanent black blister under the skin of my index finger. It's not much of an industrial injury compared with a broken back or bronchitis but maybe I am the only person in the world who might claim to have contracted a repetitive strain injury from a pen?

That little vein is a mark of a vanished age. For most of my working day, I've got about as much use for a pen as an accounts clerk has for an abacus. The word processor came to save my finger from withering and my words from the extinction of indecipherability. I use the machine for everything, even love letters.

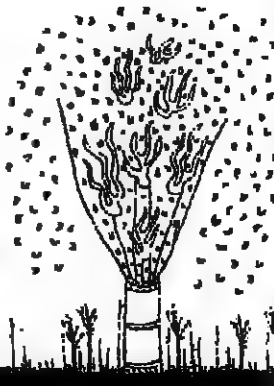
About 30 years ago, Katharine Whitehorn said that anybody who would use a typewriter to compose a poem must be short of a hexameter in the muse and soul department. What would she think of somebody who found, as I do, that the word-processor is perfect for poems: you can change any word or line as many times as you want, saving all the versions if you choose and never have to scratch your head over an old line. The Post Office isn't in the poetry market, however. They want unequivocal Ms and no messing. They might have a chance if I could get their forms on disc.

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A new theatre piece by leading poet/playwright Tony Harrison which combines invigorating verse with music, movement and magic, to explore the creative and destructive powers of science.

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REVIEWS TOMORROW
AT 7.15
OPEN THURSDAY
AT 7.15
BOX OFFICE
FIRST CALL
SEPTEMBER 30

are not on the agenda, adding

bell, 48, Greg Morgan, 47,
and Mike Oxlade, 47, Knight

CAROL LEONARD

that Parliament and government shared responsibility

Yours faithfully,
ALAN SMALLBONE,
30 Temple Fortune Lane,
NW11.

Enquiries, telephone 081 852 4575 (open weekdays).
Please allow 14 days for delivery

ESPAÑA: In the first of two concerts to commemorate the Columbus anniversary, the Ballet Collectif and the Main Ensemble perform for an intriguing measure of Spanish music ancient and modern (the latter represented by works by Falla and Roberto Gerhard). Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (071-828 8800), 7.45pm.

IL TRIOVATORE: Scottish Opera's new production, by Mark Brindley, continues the company's policy of assembling impressive international casts. Azucena (Ludmila Klamt), Manrico (Piero Faccinelli) and the Count di Luna (Miguel Roldán) are all from the Bolshoi. Lenora is the winner of the 1991 Cardiff Singer of the World competition, Lisa Gerasim. Richard Armstrong conducts. Theatre Royal, Hove Street, Glasgow W1-332 9500, 7.15pm.

THE POINCE OF DESTINY: Well balanced English National Opera production of Verdi's compelling opera under the baton of the estimable Mark Elder. Josephine Barlow takes command of the most demanding of all Verdi's dramatic soprano roles, that of Leonora. Edmund Barton, in his best to date, as Don Alvaro, and John Connell, Anne-Marie Owens and Jonathan Summers make a fine supporting cast. Richard Hudson's 19th-century costumes are set against a brightly coloured backdrop set. Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (071-836 3161), tonight, 7pm.

IF PATTEN: Drawing on traditional forms of dance, music, carnival and storytelling, the de Winton traces the African-Caribbean-British cultural assimilation back to its African roots through slavery, literature and migration. "If Patten" has worked extensively in the performing and visual arts field with groups such as Adanya. Run African Ensemble. This is his first

TODAY'S EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kari Knight

solo work created in consultation with African dance expert Peter Abdele. ICA, The Mall, London SW1 (071-830 0493), tonight, tomorrow, 8pm.

JUAN GIES: The one leading figure of the Cuban period not yet collected together for reassessment, Gies (1887-1927) is finally given a major retrospective of some 60 paintings and 30 drawings. The show concentrates on his Cubist work, showing the evolution of his style and revealing a more serious, less intellectual artist, than previously supposed. Whitechapel Art Gallery, Whitechapel High Street, London E1 (071-777 5015), Tues-Sun, 11am-5pm (Wed to Sat), until Nov 25. Free admission on Tues.

AN ENGLISH ANECDOTE: Many original drawings, sketches for stage sets in the National Trust's care, and for the gardens and garden buildings that surround them. This show brings together some 120 drawings made for gardens between 1600 and 1900. Includes works from the hand of such luminaries as Sir John Vanbrugh, "Capability" Brown, Humphrey Repton and Sir Edwin Lutyens. Hazle, Goodes & Fox, 38 Bay Street, London SW1 (071-930 6423), Mon-Fri, 10am-5.30pm, until Oct 15.

PERSEUS PICK OF THE FRINGE: Nine award-winning shows can be seen over the next three weeks at the Purcell Rooms. Tonight's double bill features the fantastically funny *Swallowing Bees* in *The Woman Who Cooked Her Husband*, followed by Uly Savage's show, *Savage* — The Return. Her District. Impersonation is worth catching. Purcell Rooms, South Bank, London SE1 (071-828 8800), 7.30pm and 9.15pm.

DANCE

Enjoyable humbug with all the festive trimmings

IF SHAW and Wodehouse are fair game for musicals, why not Dickens for ballet? Which thought indicates how best to regard Northern Ballet Theatre's latest production, *A Christmas Carol*, sponsored by Digital and BT and premiered at Bath on Saturday: a balletic entertainment rather than high art.

There is actually quite a lot of singing in it, carols and other traditional songs, many of them sung by the choristers of Wakefield Cathedral. Even Tiny Tim (played by local schoolchildren during the tour: William Cartwright-Hignett at the premiere) has a solo. "How far is it to Bethlehem?" Carl Davis uses the traditional tunes as the basis for much of his orchestral music, too, and his own numbers, aptly enough, often called to mind other familiar models — a whiff of Bellini about a romantic duet, a hint of Sibelius's *Valse Triste* when the ghosts are dancing.

Davis first suggested making the ballet, and collaborated with Christopher Gable on the scenario as well as writing the score. The production team is the one that worked together on NBT's *Romeo and Juliet*. Gable as director, Massimo Moricone as choreographer, Les Brotherton as designer. Brotherton's costumes for the ghosts are, with one exception, especially successful. Scrooge's dead partner Jacob Marley makes a frightening appearance (treading as heavily as the Commendatore in Davis's score) removing his scarf to let his jaw gape

A Christmas Carol

Royal, Bath

wide. The spirit of Christmas Present is a jolly giant with red trousers, green holly-trimmed coat over a bare chest, scattering glitter dust and Christmas Future is a skeleton with tattered cloak and crestfallen wings.

A pity that, because the story otherwise provides few solo roles for women. The ghost of Christmas Past (who enters Sylph-like through Scrooge's window) has to be a glamorous creature wearing a short gauzy shift over glittering tights; the wraith of tinsel round her head might make freer minds think she looks more like a Christmas present.

Brotherton again builds his sets from a few basic blocks which can be pushed about or turned around for quick scene changes. Gable keeps the action going efficiently and Moricone's dances are lively if not particularly inventive or expressive. He provides a pretty enough duet for the young Scrooge's rejection by his sweetheart Belle, which is nicely carried off by Fergus Logan and Jayne Regan.

Otherwise the various dances tend to look interchangeable: all the male soloists have lots of scampering jumps. William Walker as a touchingly sympathetic Bob Cratchit does them best, with Luc Jacobs as a fiddler at the *Fiddlers' party* not far behind him. Gable and Moricone rely heavily on placards, wall-hung montages or a



Fergus Logan as Young Scrooge: dances are lively, if not very inventive

voiceover to tell their story, and they do tend to repeat their comic or scary effects rather often. But the company does them proud. Jeremy Kerridge as Scrooge is confined for too much of the evening to acting snappy or furious,

but gets his reward in a crazy comic solo around or across his bed as, regenerated, he dresses for the final happy Christmas.

JOHN PERCIVAL

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Knight's assessment of theatre showing in London

House full, returns only
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071-82



Bob Geldof: shaven and unshaven in the same show

TELEVISION REVIEW: Peter Barnard is dismayed by the first morning of Channel 4's *The Big Breakfast*

No appetite for a breakfast with Bob

Breakfast television has been through so many incarnations that it must soon attract a franchise bid from the Dalai Lama. En route to this inevitable development we now have Saint Bob, the beloved Geldof. He is the star turn of *The Big Breakfast*, Channel 4's latest attempt to turn us into a nation of jugglers: defined as people who can watch the box while balancing a fried egg on a fork.

The short history of breakfast television has demonstrated that the very name is a contradiction in terms. At this time of day we are attempting, most of us, to get up and

get out. Thus is radio the obvious, logical, backdrop — and thus does *The Big Breakfast* attempt to sell itself as "radio TV".

The term comes from the press release, a ghastly mix of pretentious nonsense and ludicrous imagery: "This is a show that curdles your milk and sends your fried eggs running for their shells."

That is at least fair preparation for the programme itself, a ghastly mix of pretentious nonsense and ludicrous imagery. It is a tabloid television minus the substance we have come to associate with, for example, the *Daily Sport*. Channel 4 is rightly committed

to the pursuit of minority audiences, but how large a minority do the terminally morose constitute?

The show is set not in a studio but in three east London lock-keeper's cottages which have been knocked into one. The result is the pre-existing three breakfast shows, knocked into one. The colours are primary — yellow, red, blue — on the presumed argument that at 7am we need cheering up. I am reminded of an early-evening remark by a friend in a bar: "If this is happy hour, why am I so miserable?"

Naturally the presenters are horribly cheerful: "I'm Chris". "And I'm Gaby!". They banter back and forth with the crew. They throw things at the crew. The crew throws things at them. The news comes every 20 minutes, no more than 10 seconds per story, nothing (yesterday) foreign, unless you count the retirement of Imran Khan.

There are cartoons: boy, are there cartoons. There is a competition: "Who's washing line is it anyway?" Five items are hung on the line and people call in to guess to whom they might belong. Yesterday they belonged to Kylie Minogue.

There is a "family of the week", the Molyneuxs from Liverpool, who have moved into the lock-keeper's premises to talk to us about each other. And about world events: the David Mellor resignation was "a shame". Er... possibly.

Shortly after 8am comes Geldof. He describes what he has seen so far as "rubbish", and I am not here to disagree with him. We cut to the first of Geldof's much-hyped interviews, to be shown in segments of a couple of minutes down the week. Paul Keating, the Australian prime minister, talks to Geldof about putting his arm around the Queen — he says that he didn't. And about being a

republican — he says he is. Keating, in fact, says nothing new to Geldof, who has shaved for his live appearance on the programme but not for his recorded interview with Keating. Old Bob, so perverse, don'tcha love him? Shortly afterwards, Bob's wife Paula Yates arrives to interview Joanna Lumley, for a reason I now forget. At least things are looking up.

But looks are not enough, not on "radio TV". In the days since the mission to explain of TV-am's Famous Five, breakfast television has been on a slippery slope. I had thought Roland Rat marked the bottom. Not quite.

Colour lights up the life of Riley

When Bridget Riley first became celebrated in the 1960s, her art was notorious for its eye-battering toughness. Direct assaults seemed to be launched on the retina, by paintings which sucked the viewer into a dazzling vortex or sent lines coursing down the canvas in a cascade of overwhelming as a mountain waterfall. No wonder Riley was thought of as a combative young artist. Fiercely uncompromising, she was prepared to fight anyone who tried to steal her images for Op Art-derived fashion fabrics or billboard boardings.

Now, however, in her 61st year, the controversial prodigy has been replaced by a quieter, more reflective artist. Not that the paintings in the first room of this Hayward exhibition of work from the past decade are any less rigorous than before. Thin vertical stripes fill each canvas with their stern authority, signalling Riley's undiminished commitment to an abstract language. But the black-and-white aggression of her early work is exchanged, here, for a love affair with colour. Although black stripes still appear in many of these paintings, they are interspersed with clusters of high-keyed greens, yellows, blues and oranges. They enliven our eyes without directly assailing them. And Riley's titles

Richard Cork on an artist who combines rigour with warmth

often point to a starting-point in observation of nature. References to *Cherry Autumn* or *Burnished Sky* suggest that pattern-making in a sealed-off studio is not her concern. Rather she tries to find an equivalent for the visual sensations which excite her in the world beyond the window. Without recording in a literal way, she does invite us to see her stripes as the pared-down essence of her response. Thus, on one level, the stripes of a painting such as *Summer's Field* might refer to a close-up scrutiny of thickly-packed wheat or grass. But they could equally well derive from a more distant prospect — an aerial view, perhaps.

Abstraction allows Riley to juggle with several references in one picture — as well as continuing to assert the primacy of a flat, painted surface with a pictorial reality of its own. But as we move through this magisterial exhibition, so she reveals a greater willingness to let nature enrich the stern scaffolding of her previous work. By 1986, when *Gentle Edge* was painted, the

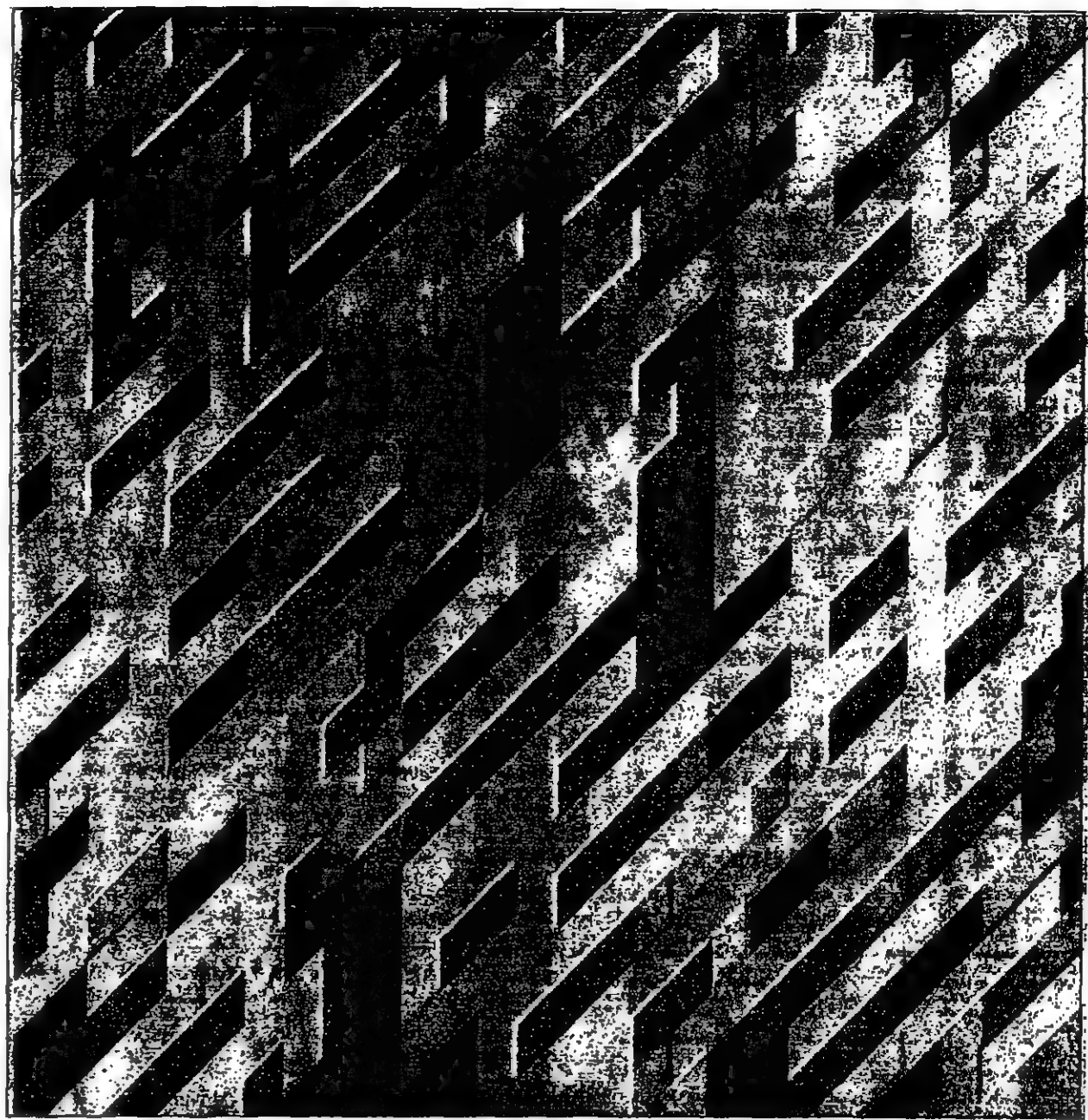
austere verticals had begun to sprout diagonal offshoots. They grow out of the upright stripes like leaves springing from plant stalks, and the colours are softer and warmer than in the early 1980s.

Within a couple of years, though, some of the former vibrancy had returned. In *New Day*, one of the strongest paintings of the period, the dense crowding has been loosened to admit generous areas of white. And substantial clumps of black exert a relaxing influence in a picture where the emphasis on vertical poles of colour is matched, now, by an increased reliance on diagonal shafts.

Eventually, in the most recent paintings, the diagonals are allowed to perform an outspoken role. They travel across each composition like sunlight falling through a wood, animating each of the vertical forms which now resemble tree trunks.

Riley's compositions remain as tightly ordered as ever, and they are also reminiscent of sumptuous patchwork quilts. But the idea of standing in a forest glade will not go away. Despite her strict adherence to systematic abstract schemes, these new Riley's may one day be seen as exclamatory additions to the British landscape tradition at its most headlong.

● Bridget Riley at the Hayward Gallery, South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 3144), until Dec 6



Into Place, 1987: abstraction allows Riley to juggle with several possible references within the same picture

Progress under pressure

As is the grisly way in rock 'n' roll, the death of Freddie Mercury last November prompted a huge upturn in worldwide sales of Queen material. Even now, the group's manager Jim Beach says he has never been so busy, and the surviving members, guitarist Brian May, bassist John Deacon and drummer Roger Taylor, still have frequent meetings to deal with their continuing business affairs. But according to May, no firm decisions have yet been taken about the future of the group.

"We're very close and we do a lot of talking," he says in his quiet, earnest voice. "There are certain things we can do in the future. We can finish off a small amount of material on which Freddie has sung, but which hasn't been released yet. As for going out on the road, we don't seem to have any consensus of opinion yet."

"My personal feeling is that we should never go out and try and be Queen again. It doesn't make sense without Freddie. At the same time I don't want to close the door on ever working with those guys again. Personally, I would like to take a bit of a breather; get the chance to find out who I am, and think about it all a bit later on."

May can afford to be sanguine. Unlike the other two he has already launched a solo career with both perfect timing and conspicuous success. His debut single "Driven By You", first heard as the soundtrack of a Ford car commercial, reached No 6 earlier this year and the follow-up, "Too Much Love Will Kill You", peaked at No 5 this month.

His debut album, *Back to the Light*, is released this week. It is a varied collection of mainstream rockers and ballads, pitched roughly in the Queen tradition, and featuring some surprisingly robust vocal performances by May.

"I worked very hard on the singing. I built up my voice by going in every day and doing a couple of hours, just like a weight training course. And of course I learned a lot from Freddie. He was a totally self-motivated man. If there was anything he wanted to do but couldn't, he would go away

Having launched a successful new solo career, Queen's guitarist Brian May talks to David Sinclair about trying to come to terms with the death of Freddie Mercury



Brian May: evidently something of a perfectionist

and learn how to do it." May, who is evidently something of a perfectionist himself, has spent five years working (on and off) on the album. They have been five of the most traumatic years of his life. The death of his father, his highly publicised relationship with Anita Dobson and the break-up of his marriage, were all conducted against a background of nagging fears for the future of both Mercury and Queen. The group's last tour ended at Knebworth on August 9, 1986, but according to May, Mercury did not divulge that he was suffering from Aids until "just a few

months before his death." "There was a period leading up to that when we were fairly convinced that we knew what was wrong, but we respected the fact that he didn't want to talk to us about it. He didn't tell us anything in the early days. He just suddenly, categorically said: 'I don't want to tour.' I think he was dealing with it privately for years."

"He never asked for sympathy from anyone else. He was a very strong person and always liked to be in control of his own destiny. He knew that if he did announce it his life would become a circus and he would be prevented from

going about his business, which was making music. He wanted it to be business as usual until the end. There was no drama, no tears in his eyes. He was incredibly self-contained."

Even so, once Mercury's condition was fully understood, the pressures on the group became immense. "We didn't feel we could speak about it to anyone," May says. "It was particularly hard lying barefacedly to our friends. And, of course, we had to stand by and watch this incredibly talented, strong man, in the prime of his life, gradually wasting away. There was a terrible feeling of helplessness."

For May, now 45, the strain of this period seems to have triggered something of a mid-life crisis. A tall, willowy figure, he stands six foot two and a half, plus clef and hair, his furrowed brow and rather woe-begone expression reveal a highly-strung interviewee. He speaks at times as if the worries of the world are his copyright, an impression which the lyrics on his album do nothing to contradict. On one track he admits to being scared of everything — from Steven Berkoff to "being ugly, being boring, being dull".

"I've been through a very hard time in the last few years and had therapy and all kinds of stuff which I don't particularly want to talk about, but you do realise that we're all little children inside."

Born in Hampton, Middlesex, May had the sort of stable, well-educated upbringing that is something of a liability in rock 'n' roll. "There was an underlying belief in fairy tales. I was not taught how tough life is." His father, a gifted electronics engineer, helped him to build his own guitar when he was in his teens, and May uses that same, home-made instrument to this day. Although he is keen to develop his prowess as a singer, he still regards the guitar as "the basic means of doing what I do. It's the only thing I can fully express myself with."

● Back to the Light by Brian May is released on Parlophone (7 80400 2)

THEATRE: *Macbeth* at the Watermill, Newbury

Due to leave next month on visits to the Tokyo Globe and Buenos Aires, Euan Smith's production is stronger in its details than in guiding these towards a unified whole. What we are given is a rough general, his yonking boots and purple beret identifying him as commanding the Scottish Paratroops, who find himself out of his depth among the pin-striped courtiers of Elvies Street. Like the ex-paratroopers in the current television series, he chooses to survive by turning criminal.

This is all very well as a base for *Macbeth's* decline but the moments of uncertainty and cur choice are inconsistently weighted. Douglas Henshall's reluctance to rise bloodily to the occasion, as his wife demands, is clearly expressed yet it follows a scene where his own dawning thoughts on murder lack the appropriate alarm. His back-and-forth interpretation relates less to the character's Hamlet-like wavering between indecision and impulse than to his style of dealing with these changes. While he brings a fine frenzy

Fair is not foul enough

to his "Sleep no more", staring haggardly at his hangman's hands, his "Tomorrow" speech goes jogging past, and "Then comes my fit again", on learning of Fleance's escape, suggests that it troubles him little more than the chef's regret that the haggis will be a little late.

Gregory Smith's conveniently transportable set contains no vertical scenery — the production here, as in Tokyo, is designed in the round — and consists of worn slabs crossed with deep conduits such as might convey blood away in an abattoir.

The witches crouch around a grating that is sometimes lifted to reveal a dead body floating in reddish water. This offers the prospect of grisly visions to come, but nothing

ever emerges from this substitute cauldron. Nothing goes into it either, not one toe of frog.

Smith's production requires all the horrid apparatus to be imagined by us yet, once again, Henshall's quick recital of them gives them insufficient terror. The grating serves as the banquet table, with cushions laid around it by the witches, but this seems a mere necessity forced by the confines of the stage than any real identity.

The reversal of power between *Macbeth* and his lady is effectively shown when he mesmerises her into stepping towards him, and Caroline Loncq's distracted wiping of her hands rings true.

There is telling use of play with hands throughout the production and yet possibilities are continually ignored: we have no sense that Malcolm is only pretending to be vicious in order to test Macduff. At the end he says so and that's that. The production relies too much on this take it or leave it approach.

JEREMY KINGSTON



Deborah Warner: debut at Glyndebourne in 1994

Last chance...

THERE is a thesis to be written on the number of groups influenced by the Velvet Underground. The latest is Luna, a trio of refugees from other bands: Dean Wareham (ex-Galaxie 500) on vocals and guitar, Justin Harwood (ex-Chills) on bass and Stanley Demski (ex-Fire) on drums. Luna's UK tour ends tomorrow at the Twioli, Buckley (0244 550782).

RADIO REVIEW
Difficult family outings

The Monday Play on Radio 4, A Bit of Berlin, was about a conventional English couple who go to Berlin to see their son; after he has been attacked in the street, and discover that he may have been obvious but the treatment of it was excellent.

The parents, Vic (James Groux) and Barbara (Rowena Cooper), are past masters at concealing their feelings of optimism and ready-to-wear euphemisms. Mark's boyfriend, Dieter (Walker Van Dyke), is beautifully balanced, understands the feelings of all parties, gently teaches the parents about homosexuality and even manages to persuade Mark that he has been cowardly in not telling his parents years ago.

The weakest element was the revelation that Vic himself,

in Berlin after the war, took part in a vicious attack on an old man, even fantasising that the victim was a "pervert". All told, this was perhaps as much a liberal education lesson as a play, but it was well worth putting on.

Another story about people having to adjust to the unexpected is being read on Radio 4 this week and next. In this case it is the Queen and her family, who have to learn to live on a council estate when the Republican party unexpectedly wins the election.

The author is Sue Townsend, and this is an abridged version of her new novel *The Queen and I*. It is read by Miriam Margolyes, who also mimics the voices in an accurate and kindly way, except for the Queen, who is given a Donald Duck quack.

Townsend's Adrian Mole had his first triumph on radio.

so it was understandable that John Tydemans, Mole's producer, should also want to do this book. However, *The Queen and I* is nothing like as funny. Such a provocative idea cries out either for bitter mockery or comic extravagance.

What we get is the Royal Family learning to cope with tin-openers and queues at the out-patients — and, moreover, coping with enthusiasm or at least impeccable sang-froid.

The Prince of Wales is delighted by what he thinks is the primitive life, the Queen Mother loves her bungalow, and the Queen keeps her dignity through thick and thin. Clearly Sue Townsend is no more a republican than most of us. She gives us satire with nothing challenging about it, and comedy with very low-key laughs.

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Mysteries cut to the bones

George Hill on how the new DNA tests have re-opened several ancient cases and could solve long-standing mysteries

More dry bones are bound to start rising up and telling stories, now that the Romanovs have pointed the way. Whether or not it proves possible to identify the murdered Tsar and his family from the burned and splintered fragments of bone brought from the burial pit at Ekaterinburg to the forensic laboratory at Aldermaston, the discovery has fastened public attention as nothing else could have done on the possibilities of DNA analysis for resolving mysteries.

From ancient Egypt to the Wild West, hitherto unanswerable questions have now become answerable, in principle at least, through the technique of mitochondrial DNA analysis. It can unmask imposters, confirm the pretensions of disbelieved claimants and can reunite long-separated families.

The technique has already had important successes. In Argentina, children who were left orphans by the murder squads of the former dictatorship, and given away for adoption while still babies, have been identified and reunited with their families by comparison of their DNA with that of their grandparents.

Earlier this year, German and Israeli authorities accepted that Dr Josef Mengele, the Auschwitz doctor responsible for the deaths of 400,000 Jews, was truly dead, after studying the findings of tests made by Professor Alec Jeffreys of Leicester University, and other scientists, on the bones of a man who had drowned in Brazil in 1979. The DNA in the bones was compared with that in samples contributed by Mengele's son.

The same techniques could also provide answers to far older mysteries. The fate of the vanished princes in the Tower of London is one. The story that they were murdered by Richard III has never been universally accepted.

Some writers still believe that one or both of the princes survived. For several years after 1494, Perkin Warbeck claimed to be the younger prince, and was the rightful king of England. He was captured, retracted

his claim and hanged. Nearly 200 years later, in Charles II's reign, two small skeletons were discovered under a staircase in the Tower. They were buried in Westminster Abbey and still lie in an urn in Henry VII's chapel.

Analysis of the bones in the urn might go some way towards showing whether or not the lives of the princes really ended in the Tower. The patterns of DNA — deoxyribonucleic acid, the main constituent of chromosomes — are handed down so consistently from mother to daughter (not from mother to son) that 20 or so generations later there should still be a clear correspondence between the DNA of the

princes and that of a living relative in the female line, if one could be found.

Prising open tombs could solve other ancient puzzles. The murders of Edward II and Richard II in 1327 and 1400 also gave rise to rumours. Bodies alleged to be theirs lie in Gloucester Cathedral and Westminster Abbey, but there is contemporary evidence that

Edward escaped and wandered incognito through many countries before dying in Lombardy. Rumours persisted long after Richard's death that his chaplain, Richard Maudeyn, who resembled him closely, had been killed in mistake for him. The king of Scotland, no doubt hoping to bring trouble in England, paid a pension for years to a supposed Richard, and had him buried in 1419 in Black Friar's church, Stirling. Richard's tomb at Westminster was opened in the last century, and his skull was still intact then. Which of the two Richards was the more regal genes?

It is not likely that disturbing any of these bones would add much to serious knowledge. It would be tempting to seek out another skeleton — that of the notorious Tichborne claimant, who fascinated London in the 1860s by claiming to be the lost heir of a baronetcy and a large Hampshire estate. After a series of court cases, he was declared to be the son of a Wapping butcher. He was jailed for perjury and died in poverty.



Skull's secrets: tests may identify the Tsar



Where are they now? The mystery of Butch Cassidy (seated, right) and the Sundance Kid (seated, left), here in their Hole in the Wall days, could at last be solved

For the remoter past, DNA analysis has great potential in tracing the movement of prehistoric populations, but will rarely be useful in confirming individual relationships, because the physical evidence will be too scanty.

One exception could be ancient Egypt, where light might perhaps be shed on the mysteries surrounding Akhenaten, the heretic monotheist pharaoh of the 14th century BC. Mummies and locks of hair have been found which probably belonged to several of his close relatives — one of them his son-in-law, Tutankhamun. But no mummy has been convincingly identified as that of Akhenaten, whose reign ended in obscurity.

A mystery of the Wild West may soon yield to DNA testing — what really became of Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid?

One of the most memorable moments in westerns is the ending of the Robert Redford and Paul Newman film about them: the two cornered outlaws, having fled north America with Pinkerton detectives on their trail, are trapped and wounded, somewhere in Bolivia.

Surrounded by overwhelming forces, they choose not to surrender, but defiantly burst out of their hiding place to be caught in a frozen frame an instant before they are mown down by the fire of hundreds of waiting soldiers.

Even before the film was made, and still more vehemently afterwards, historians disputed the conclusion. With every passing year, a new set of theories, some more, some less credible, has emerged about the fate of America's most famous outlaws. By the last estimate, Butch and Sundance have been reported dead at least 24 times on three continents. Now, more than 80 years after their disappearance, a pile of bones unearthed from a Bolivian graveyard and the most sophisticated techniques available to modern forensic science may be about to show that Hollywood was more or less right after all.

In 1985, Anne Meadows, a freelance writer, and her husband, Dan Buck, set about unravelling the mystery. After six years of research in Chile, Washington, Argentina and Bolivia, they came

across some diplomatic correspondence referring to a shoot-out between a couple of gringos and the local police in San Vicente, a tiny mining town 4,000 metres up the Andes, rumoured to be the death-place of Butch and Sundance, whose real names were Robert Leroy Parker and Harry Longbaugh.

When Ms Meadows and Mr Buck got to San Vicente they found a 54-year-old man named Friolán Risso who said his father had witnessed the shoot-out as a boy. Senor Risso led them to a spot in the San Vicente graveyard where his father had indicated the two men were buried.

Last year, Ms Buck and Mr Meadows returned to San Vicente graveyard, this time with a scientific team headed by Clive Snow, a forensic anthropologist famed in America for his part in identifying the remains of Mengele as well as the bodies of torture victims in Argentina. With permission from the local authorities, they began digging at the spot in the graveyard

indicated by Senor Risso. Nine feet down they found the body of one large man, and a little way away the skull of another.

Back in his forensic laboratory at the University of Oklahoma, Dr Snow set to work on the remains. He ascertained that both were caucasians, aged about 40. One had entry and exit holes in the skull from a bullet passing through both temples, while the forehead of the other was smashed, a hole which could have been caused by another bullet fired between the eyes.

The wounds are consistent with the theory that the outlaws, outgunned and possibly wounded, had entered into a death pact, with Butch shooting Sundance before turning his gun on himself. That coincides with an account given in Bolivian army records.

Computerised reconstructions of the shape of the outlaws' heads, taken from photographs, have been compared with the skulls and are said by the scientists to match up "pretty well", but as Dan Buck frankly admits, there is nothing that definitively proves that the bones taken from San Vicente

graveyard are those of the two outlaws.

"But there is nothing to suggest that it isn't them either," he says, "and that's the most we could hope for until the DNA tests come through." Dr Snow and his team are carrying out genetic fingerprinting, comparing DNA from the remains with that of other members of the outlaws' families. Given the large number of Parker siblings, finding Butch's relatives was relatively easy, according to Ms Buck, but tracing family for the Sundance Kid required a scramble to the outer limits of the Longbaugh family tree.

Even if the DNA tests prove positive, since neither outlaw had children, the only way to achieve a certain DNA fingerprint match would be to dig up their parents, whose graves are unknown. A final verdict on the DNA tests is not expected for several months. Even then the scientists will deal only in probabilities. The outlaws' final whereabouts may never be known to certain. They would probably prefer it to be that way.

Additional reporting by Ben MacIntyre.

Joe Joseph's canapés have been more imaginative, his cutlery co-ordinated, since he went on the Lucie Clayton Entertaining course

We all know there are certain rules the considerate hostess bears in mind if she wants her guests to break bread with their fellow diners without wanting also to break their heads. Mostly, dining decorum is just common sense.

For instance: while crusted port and Havana cigars are acceptable items for circulation around the dinner table, photographs of your children are not, unless they happen to be criminals with high rewards for capture hanging over their heads.

But for some women, the

thought of having people over sends them dizzy. Rest easy ladies, Lucie Clayton wants to help. The famous finishing school for girls is launching a series of one-day Entertaining courses for the older woman who feels that she lacks the know-how, or maybe just the confidence, to ensure her dinner parties last past 9.30pm.

Just how unconfident do you need to be? For women who could give a useful tip or two to the editor of *Gourmet*, says Lucie's promotion brochure, "this is not the course that we would recommend. This is a day for the middle-

brow lady anxious to ensure her own freedom from blunders and blunders."

By the time she is on her train back to Buxton at the end of the course, the middle-brow attendee should feel able to invite the entire Rotary Club to dinner without fear of blunder or blunder, having spent £110 learning how to choose and plan courses and wine, cook the main dish, set the table, pick the right cutlery and glasses and place the guests in the correct order. Even how to weave a stunning flower arrangement.

Does going to all this fuss still matter? Do Buxton hostesses have sleepless nights if their dinner service doesn't match? Will your friends never speak to you again if you serve them potatoes straight out of the saucepan? Doesn't Buxton have decent restaurants where you can meet friends for a meal without going to all

the bother of spooning the supermarket salmon pâté into your own serving bowl and hoping nobody asks for the recipe, which would force you to explain why you always add a pinch of anti-oxidant to all your dishes, just in case?

Lucie Clayton herself is torn about the subject of etiquette. Leslie Kark, who runs the school, has reached the smart conclusion that it's more important to be civil and considerate than to be able to recite Debré's. "My own view," he



Knack of the napkin: the course gives advice on how to dress a table

says, "is that if you don't know what to do with your finger bowl then it doesn't matter. But some people do worry."

So is it cruel to perpetuate the belief that there are rigid rules that an elegant hostess ignores only if she wants to risk social ridicule? Or is it even crueler to deny anxious women a sort of "Emily-Post-best-behaviour" truss that will give them social support when they next do a dinner for eight, and give them the confidence of knowing that even if the

main course tastes like dog food, it has at least been carved correctly?

Nine middle-brow women who saw advertisements in magazines such as *Good Housekeeping* turned up at Lucie Clayton's Kensington headquarters for the first Entertaining course. The day began with advice on planning a dinner party. Let's not take the mystery out of the course, but here is a taste of what will bring confident evenings to Buxton once more.

While sitting on the stylistic fence, pre-plating-wise, "I've got some very personal, strong ideas about napkins. There is a swing away from starched napkins to napkins that are friendlier to use", though a strip of kitchen roll may be too friendly.

Where do you put the napkin? "I think the side plate is the ideal position, if you are in a side plate situation." And, get this, "It's always nice to have a menu". Perhaps it confuses guests into leaving a

tip under the cheese plate?

Cookery tips follow from two young chefs, trained by Prou Leith. Katie Rogers and Mark Wogan, Terry's son, prepare melted goat's cheese salad, rolled and stuffed chicken, and chocolate marquise. Very professional, though they do not drop food on the floor or lick their fingers like restaurant cooks. Perhaps they are scared of starting a trend among Buxton hostesses for dunking their fists into sauces to check the seasoning.

A woman who demonstrates flower-arranging advises making your arrangement "one-sixth the size of the table and you can't go wrong". A sommelier tells the ladies "if there's only one line of bubbles going up the middle of the glass, then it's a good champagne. If it bubbles like Coca-Cola, then it's cheap champagne." So now we can tell how miserly our hosts are.

"Ginger ale in a champagne glass looks like champagne." You would have thought guests could tell the difference, unless you have been so imaginative with the canapés that you laced them with cannabis.

Does all this help soothe furrowed middle-brows? A lady from Croydon says it does: "I entertain quite a lot. The presentation of the table means a lot. You want to give dinner parties where people want to come back. They mention it to friends and you widen your circle of friends." Was there really a chapter on friendly napkin-folding and china colour-coordination in Dale Carnegie's book *How To Win Friends And Influence People*? I missed it.

"From our point of view, it worked very well," Mr Kark says at the end of the course's inaugural run.

They were shy. They weren't very good at asking questions. But that's why they've come. To gain more social confidence.

So what's it to you and me if a bunch of women want to stop making fools of themselves by mixing red flowers

and yellow plates? Only this: if we must have hosting hints, hostesses should maybe learn a few that will enrich the lives of those dinner guests whose priorities focus on more pressing culinary matters than how to knot napkins. Let's not forget the following:

● Unless entertaining Olympic athletes in training, it is not necessary to provide a meal which satisfies the recommended minimum daily requirements for all known vitamins and minerals. Calories taste much better.

● A hostess who obliges a guest's request for the recipe of her *veal supreme* is in danger of taking life too seriously.

● Cooks who seriously believe there are 101 ways with Quorn would do well to remember that even Einstein managed only a couple of major theories in his lifetime.

● While thinking on one's feet is merely dangerous, eating on one's feet is unsightly and is best left to bears and those monkeys that nature has adapted for this purpose. This is why we have tables and chairs and they do not.

● The quality of the food should be of paramount importance to the thoughtful hostess. If fillet steak costs £10 per lb and pig's knuckles just 20p per lb, then rest assured that the free market is trying to tell you something.

● Diets make suitable dinner conversation only if one is seeking to comment indirectly on the meagre size of the portions served. If you are eating with your figure, keep it to yourself. Chew all your food, just don't swallow.

● Your hostess's decision to start with Thai satay sticks is not sufficient excuse to recount your youthful exploits in Bangkok with the merchant navy.

● The knowledge that most healthy adults can subsist without anything but water for a week or more is knowledge best ignored by the hostess who wishes to receive thank-you letters.

Bon appetit

Has feminism failed?

Return the coupon below for tickets to the debate on women at the Institute of Education, Bedford Way, London (October 6, 7.30pm). The speakers include Neil Lyndon, Yvonne Roberts and Beatrix Campbell.

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The family secret is out

Should children conceived by donor insemination be told the truth about their birth, at the risk of exposing them to pain and prejudice? Ann Lloyd reports

Did you look sad like that?" was the question six-year-old Simon asked his Mum when they sat down to read his new book, *My Story*. The picture Simon was curious about shows a couple sitting close together on a sofa and looking upset. The man's arm is placed tenderly around the woman's shoulders. On the opposite page it says: "Mummy and Daddy tried for a long time to have a baby and they were very sad when no baby began to grow." It goes on to explain, in a way which a four to seven-year-old can understand, how a child is conceived by donor insemination (DI).

The book is written as if the child in the story is the child reading the book. On the last page is an empty picture-frame for the child's own photograph, with the word "Me" underneath. Simon's photo, taken when he was four, is now in his book. Both Simon and his two-year-old brother, Andrew, were conceived by donor insemination. His mother, Jane Offord, is one of the two authors of the book; the other is Angela Mays, who also has a son conceived by DI, Ben, who is three, and a daughter, Sally, seven months.

"Simon completely accepted the book," says Mrs Offord. "There was no big drama. He just thoroughly enjoyed reading it with me and was thrilled to bits that it was his very own true story." She believes that if you tell children the truth "with love and trust, they will accept it no matter how awful that truth might seem to other people."

When Simon went to school he wanted to take "his book" with him. Mrs Offord and her husband, Neil, allowed him to do so. "We'd already spoken to his teacher," says Mrs Offord. "It's important that if you do decide to tell a child conceived by DI the truth, you then put his teachers and close family and friends in the picture. They need to be prepared so they don't misunderstand or brush aside something he might say."

Mrs Offord and Mrs Mays met at the Insemination Clinic of the University Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, the Jessop Hospital for Women, Sheffield, which is supervised by Dr Sheila Cooke. Dr Cooke places much emphasis on counselling at the clinic; information is not only freely given, but support is also offered. She points out that for many couples treatment can be quite stressful.

The idea for *My Story* originated when Dr Cooke visited Mrs Offord in hospital after Andrew's birth and showed her an Australian book aimed at older children conceived by DI. Mrs Offord, who is a primary school teacher, mapped out the first rough outline in 20 minutes, although it was nearly two years before the book was published.

Dr Cooke, who was involved in the book's production from the beginning, points out that it emphasises

"how much Mummy and Daddy loved each other and wanted a baby but could only achieve that with help from someone else."

Although Mrs Offord is good at communicating with children, she was nervous before she and Simon began to read *My Story*. So she can really appreciate "how difficult it must be for somebody with no experience of children to know where to start".

Both the Offords and the Mays decided before their children were conceived to tell them the truth. "I have a deep-seated belief that people have the right to know the truth about their origins," says Mrs Mays. "I just couldn't contemplate living with secrecy and, anyway, I consider it a poor basis for a loving, trusting relationship with a child."

However, the Offords and the Mays are the exception. Research indicates that between 66 per cent and 85 per cent of parents of children conceived by DI (about 1,250 a year in the UK) do not tell their children. Reasons given include the need to protect the child from being stigmatised; fear of prejudice on the part of relatives and friends; and a desire to keep confidential the husband's infertility, which is often, but not always, the cause of the problem. "Also," says Mrs Mays, "some parents may decide not to tell because they themselves have not fully come to terms with the reality and the long-term implications of the procedure."

She knows from personal experience that the fear of prejudice is not unfounded. The issue of disclosure has been a difficult one for Mrs Mays and her husband, Andy's, families, who would have preferred the matter to have been kept secret.

Another couple, Peter and Ann (not their real names), have decided not to tell their daughter, Ruth, now aged six, how she was conceived. They have heard of families turning against children conceived by DI and treating them as if they were alien. "No way is that going to happen to Ruth," says Peter.

One young woman conceived by DI was urged by her mother to "take 'the secret' to the grave". But can anyone keep a secret for a lifetime? And what if a child finds out by accident and discovers its parents had not been honest?

Mrs Offord, in her work as a teacher, has come across one child, aged six, who was "totally devastated" to find out during a family argument that his Mum and Dad were not, in fact, his parents but his aunt and uncle.

And if you opt for secrecy, how do you cope with the anxiety, year in year out, that the child might find out by accident?

In 1981, the sociologist Elizabeth Snowden and her husband, Robert Snowden, professor of family studies at the University of Exeter, interviewed 56 couples who had children, then aged from newborn to four,



In the open: Angela and Andy Mays with Ben and Sally, both conceived "with help from someone else"

conceived by DI. Eight years later they went back and interviewed 30 of the couples again. "Only two out of the 30 couples had told their children how they were conceived. Many of the others had told friends and relatives and yet were quite certain their children would never find out by accident," says Mrs Snowden.

She feels there is a lot more chance of those children finding out than their parents realise. "Both adults and children can sense invisible barriers. Somehow the communication that something's different is there even in the silence."

Further research by the Snowdens indicates that what Mrs Offord has discovered with Simon is right: that if

children conceived by DI are told in a planned and loving way, they accept it quite easily.

Recent legislation, in the form of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act, provides that in the future, adults, or 16-year-olds if marriage is contemplated, who believe they were born as a result of in vitro fertilisation or DI will be able to apply to the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority to find out whether its register indicates they were born as a result of either of these treatments. If so, and if they are planning to get married, they will also be able to discover whether they are related to the person they wish to marry.

Whatever happens in the future, both the Offords and the Mays feel strongly that the decision whether or not to tell belongs to the parents and to them alone. "If the book helps parents who might be against telling because they just don't know how to do it, then that's good," says Mrs Offord. "They'll be making a more informed decision. But it is their decision. We made the decision which was right for us. Other parents must do the same."

My Story (£3.95 including p&pn) is available from Dr Sheila Cooke, University Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Jessop Hospital for Women, Sheffield S3 7RE (phone 0742 766333, ext 320; fax 0742 752153).

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Ashes to ashes, privet to privet

I never quite got the gist of bio-diversity, but I think it's the very thing I can't do. Mainstreaming ecological balance between different species.

I used to own a handsome collection of houseplants, but when I got a child-substitute kitten it swung from the urticaria and killed off all the cacti. After seven spoiled years with us, when the first baby arrived, it packed its spotted handkerchief and moved in with a childless couple down the road.

Children, too, as a breed do not cohabit easily with other life forms. Forget the flora; that expires from neglect. You are far too busy watering and potting your offspring to water and report your succulents. Fauna are a different issue. Children want pets.

I know that keeping pets is supposed to instruct the young in responsibility and affection, give them lessons in life and death. In my experience it teaches them only about the habits of that sub-species, parents. Eventually your father will feel sorry for the dog and exercise it himself; your mother will be distressed about the murkiness of the fish tank far sooner than you are.

Pet ownership is preceded by passionate interest, weeks of nagging and pleading that your child is the only one in the class, county or cosmos without a pet. All right, if I can't have a lion cub or a pony, what about a small Irish wolfhound, say? Alligators are very clean. Jeremy's uncle has got ferrets we could have for almost nothing...

When you have been talked down from a python to a guinea pig, you give in. In the honeymoon period that follows, much pocket money is expended on collars, cages, hutches and runs, underwater ornaments and water weed. Ignoring stern warnings from the RSPCA that a pet is for life, you purchase it. You discover that the life in question, devoted to pet care, is going to be your own.

Not all pets pass away swiftly to the cemetery at the bottom of the garden. Some go on forever, surviving the children's enthusiasm and even their time under your roof. I know several superannuated rabbits whose original owners are nearing the end of their time at medical school, while the mothers are left still serving lettuce and carrot tops.

Nor do pets offer much useful instruction about death. My children listened in wonder to the tale of a hamster belonging to friends. It expired and was buried with due ceremony in a cotton-wool-lined shoe box. The warmth perked it up to end and it was returned by neighbours two days later having disintegrated itself from its shallow grave and arrived at their back door. Less a lesson in death than an affirmation of resurrection.



Davina Lloyd

Inevitably, when our own hamster peeped out, the children could not be convinced that this condition of stiff-legged inertia was terminal. The creature lay in state on velvet in a margarine tub on top of the washing machine for days, while they waited for it to stop hibernating. Forbidden to use the machine out of respect, it was a moot point which of us would begin to hum first.

Enough to make you have kittens. And we did. A couple of years ago, I surrendered to the cat call. We approached the Cat Protection League, which advised us to take two, so that they could keep each other company.

The procedure for adoption was no less rigorous than that for human fostering. Our premises were inspected; we were introduced to the mother; I had to sign a contract undertaking to have them spayed and neutered respectively.

Depressing then, when we have lavished love and veterinary care to show our respect for the cats, that they show so little for other creatures. They chase spiders, torment moths and periodically bring in bits of passing pigeon. Two goldfish that I won accidentally throwing darts at a fair lived happily with us for years. They have just been snatched by two already well-fed felines.

The nearest I have come to establishing ecological harmony is with our stick insect. It teaches the children little of life, its existence being limited to assuming the immobile appearance of a stick. Nor much of reproduction: s/he manages to produce eggs and little twigs without the assistance of a partner.

It feeds on pieces of rose leaves or hedge, which it closely resembles. At our last home, we used to have to go out after dark to pinch bits of privet from neighbouring gardens. When it finally perishes, I shall continue to feed new pieces of hedge to old pieces of hedge — the last word in bio-uniformity — dust to dust, ashes to ashes, privet to privet.

Parental rights, and wrongs

The Kingsley "child divorce" in Florida poses some awkward questions for British parents

Children," said Oscar Wilde, "begin by loving their parents. After a time they judge them; rarely, if ever, do they forgive them."

Gregory Kingsley has got through all these stages by the age of 12. His mother, he said, "breaks promises". He agreed that he forgave and did not want to hurt her, but when the court in Florida rose, Gregory had made legal history by divorcing his Mom.

He joins his foster family for good, to become Gregory Russ, and after the extraordinary press and television exposure his case received, one can only wish him a decent measure of anonymity in which to grow up.

Children's rights campaigners are delighted. Some Republicans regard it as an assault on the family. But how do we British parents feel, watching from our own family firesides an ocean away? Did we shudder at this evidence of the state's power to divide mother and child? Or did we rejoice at the implication that children should be listened to?

We have, after all, now achieved our own Children's Act, which some say undermines parental rights, and others welcome as a statement that no son or daughter is a chattel. In this country, the term "divorce" is unlikely to occur in the same context as the Kingsley case, but a child can apply for a residence order away from home, and prevent

his parents from contacting him. We look at Gregory Kingsley, and his mother, and the Russ family, with mixed and troubled feelings.

The child's face, at the moment he won the case, probably overwhelmed most onlookers with a sense of pure relief. At times, Gregory had appeared depressingly priggish and unchildlike in the witness box, but just then, his tearful joy made him look ten years younger, a lost infant sighting his parents across a threatening landscape.

He is clearly best off where he is. But there were disquieting class undertones to the case, a sense of tidy people in suits siding with other tidy people in suits.

Gregory, not to put too fine a point on it, looked distinctly preppy after his year in the kind, affluent family of the lawyer George Russ. There he was in his little collar and tie. And there was his mother, a single parent, big and warm and chaotic and broke. Evidence mounted against her, as it always does against those who live near the edge: she has a lover with a criminal record who allegedly beats her. She is said to have drunk heavily and used drugs (Gregory remembered marijuana on the hall table).

She admitted to long periods of not coping and depending on handouts from friends, and to leaving her children alone at night. Gregory was shunted into care, rarely visit-

ed, and in effect abandoned. The Russ family, on the other hand, is a stable, affluent two-parent household, able to help Gregory to fight his corner and hire a lawyer. They were always pretty likely to win.

Might not this scenario strike fear into any single parent forced to give up a child for a short time and seeing it fostered into an assertive and well-organised middle-class family? Or indeed, to a parent of rebellious teenagers who seemed to prefer spending their holidays, as so many do, at a friend's house? Suppose the other family actually offered your child a home?

And suppose your child got up in court and said: "Look, my parents have always preferred my sister, they packed me off to boarding school, which I hate, they never turn up for exams, they don't care..."

What if the alternative home offered less discipline and more wealth? Or was devoted to some proselytising sect? I have known parents of a 15-year-old who were driven wild with worry at her infatuation with a family of Scientologists: suppose that child had the right to "divorce" her family and opt for them?

Older children, after all, are programmed to experiment and explore: it is easy to imagine a court, composed of people who did not think much of your politics or



Sweet sorrow: 12-year-old Gregory Kingsley wipes away a tear during his court case

hippyish clothes or whatever, backing up their rebellion. Paranoid fancies perhaps; but they raise the spectre of an unthinkable loss, a bond forged in pregnancy and babyhood being broken by a cold judiciary.

On the other hand, the suffering of children at the hands of some parents has always been very great: what would not want to see David Copperfield legally divorcing Mr Murdstone, or any of the poor murdered infants of our

own time briskly removed from their hopeless or supine mothers?

Perhaps the Gregory Kingsley case should be just a salutary reminder that there are limits on parental rights: that the less-favoured child, the awkward one, the one who

gets on your new boyfriend or girlfriend's nerves and does not get visited as much at boarding school, is not a possession to be taken for granted or a problem which can be left until you feel up to

it. As Fay Weldon crisply put it in her novel *Darcy's Utopia*, it is not relevant when bad parents say — as they always do — that they love their babies. What is more relevant is "whether they are worthy of a baby's love".

Rachel Kingsley was not, and her son was her judge. All our sons and daughters will be, one day. It just happened that Gregory had his say six years earlier than most.

LIBBY PURVES

AND BRIEFLY

Playgirl in pink

THE fuchsia-pink Jaguar convertible which was parked in front of the Savoy last week looked like the ideal car for the Princess of Wales, now that she's given up her Mercedes. But it had been designed for a long-legged blonde who is more internationally popular than the princess, and probably worth even more money: the Barbie doll.

Barbie's Jaguar is available for around £23 from toyshops around the country, one of many new developments the toy company, Mattel, was showing at the hotel.

Barbie also has a mobile — or "magic" — telephone which really talks (around £12, as part of a telephone table), "roller blade" skates (around £10.50), and her own hair styling gel, which comes with "Ultra Hair Barbie", whose tresses go down to her toes.

Whatever recessionary terrors strike toytown, Barbie, who is slightly older than the Princess of Wales, looks in no danger of toppling from her pedestal as one of the highest — if not the highest — earning playgirls of the Western world.

Blast off

BLAST! is a new, free newsletter for young asthmatics from the National Asthma Campaign. Sent to all secondary schools and available to individuals, the second issue includes a report on activity holidays for teenagers with asthma, a look at how the actor, Roger Lloyd Pack, came to terms with his asthma, and

the story of how Philip Schofield helped a 14-year-old fan through an attack. And some old wives' tales about asthma, like the one about exercise being bad for asthmatics, are debunked. For a copy write to: Blast!, Communications Department, National Asthma Campaign, Providence House, Providence Place, London N1 0NT.

Child's play

THE second, revised, edition of the *Postnatal Exercise Book*, by obstetric physiotherapist Margie Polden and Barbara Whiteford, is published on Thursday by Frances Lincoln. The £7.95 paperback, with photographs by Sandra Lousada, has been endorsed by a number of childbirth experts, including Sheila Kitzinger.

It concentrates on the six-week period immediately after the birth, suggesting gentle but essential exercises which can be done, even in bed. It also shows how to exercise with your baby.

Inimitable

"ADULT Imitation" toys, as they are known, now take up two pages in the latest Argos catalogue, testifying to the growing sophistication of this type of plaything.

Notable additions are a mini microwave oven (£19.99) by Berchert, complete with rotating turntable, an almost life-sized "Telefax" centre by Petite (with a "motorised push button paper feed", £14.75) and a miniature check-out till complete with state-of-the-art electronic scanner from Fisher Price (£21.99).

VICTORIA MCKEE

are not on the agenda, adding bell 48, Greg Morgan, 47, and Mike Oxide, 47. Knight

CAROL LEONARD

compromised that Parliament and government shared responsibility

Yours faithfully, ALAN SMALLBONE, 30 Temple Fortune Lane, NW11.

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Putting the case for current affairs

Factual programming could soon lose its peak-time position on ITV. Roger Graef says advertisers and viewers will be up in arms about it

This week's expected appointment of Marcus Platin to head the network scheduler will end the state of suspended animation that has blighted the independent sector. But he must be careful how he deals with the row that has been going on all summer about the threat to marginalise current affairs on ITV.

Mr Platin's handling of current affairs will be a crucial indication of the kind of programming likely to appear on ITV in the coming years: he, like Paul Jackson, director of programmes at Carlton, is an entertainment man.

Although Mr Jackson is a distinguished producer of innovative comedy for cult viewers on BBC2 and Channel 4, he seems to have gone native in his new job in pursuit of mass audiences.

Earlier this year, he served notice on the industry — and viewers — with his warning that *World In Action* and *This Week* would have to pull at least eight million viewers in order to stay in prime time. When Andrew Quinn became ITV chief executive, he reinforced that view.

Their position, not unexpectedly, has been widely criticised by current affairs programme-makers and their admirers, who see this as exactly the deterioration in quality television they expected. Moreover, they point to the growth of audiences for both *WIA* and *This Week* to the point where the former drew more than ten million three times last year, while *This Week* averages seven million. Even by the Jackson-Quinn criteria, these are serious players in the ratings game.

Both Ray Frier, editor of *WIA* and Paul Woolwich, editor of *This Week*, argue that ITV is narrowing its prime time output dangerously, and should be able to take risks with what amounts to 4 per cent of its air-time. Jackson's

reply (at the Edinburgh television festival) was revealing: he warned that ITV profit margins are likely to be so close that 4 per cent could make all the difference.

But in its panic about its future survival, ITV may be in danger of doing exactly the wrong thing in devaluing current affairs and documentaries. "The only people I hear talk about millions of viewers are programme makers," says Brian Jacobs of Leo Burnett, the advertising agency. "Advertisers are far more concerned with the quality and composition of the audience than with its size."

John Perriss, whose clients include the food giants Kraft and Mars, feels that a shrewd advertiser is more likely to use Channel 4 as its main investment — now that 84 per cent of viewers watch it at some time or another in the week — some slots on breakfast television, and BSkyB, whose five "themed" channels offer targeted audiences and whose share is creeping up. They would only turn to ITV to top up the package in those regions where a boost is needed.

This is significantly bad news for ITV, whose financial prospects in coming years remain worrying. But their answer — to replace peak-time current affairs and documentaries with more "popular" fare — flies in the face of their



Hard news: American mafia boss John Gotti (left) caught in the *This Week* spotlight

own best interests. Messrs Perriss and Jacobs argue that only by offering a rich and varied menu of programming — at prime time — can they expect to offer serious competition to Channel 4 and BSkyB.

Currently the mid-break slot of *News at Ten* is among the most valued on television, not because of the size of the audience, but because of the high number of ABCI viewers. Pushing the news and current affairs to later in the evening would weaken their strength and, on current performance, no film or drama is as certain to offer comparable numbers of high-quality viewers, even if the total viewership is larger.

This is the second and still more basic weakness of the Quinn-Jackson thesis. Audiences like factual programmes. Analysis of the Barb figures (see table below) for the different genres of programmes on ITV — and on other channels — show a strong preference for and appreciation of factual programmes. Their combined share of viewing outstrips even the demand for soaps.

Across all channels, their share of ABCI viewers is also higher, although ITV's audiences remain skewed by older and downmarket viewers, a problem they will not solve by simply "popularising" their peak-time schedule.

Factual programming includes far more than current affairs and documentaries. The hugely popular "infotainment" shows, such as the BBC's *999* and *Crimewatch* draw on cinema vérité and current affairs techniques. It also delivers its audiences far more cheaply than drama, or most light entertainment. For example, *999* draws ten million viewers. *Crimewatch* has even higher ratings, and has been joined by *Crime Monthly* on ITV.

But offering entertainment packaged as information or vice versa is not enough to satisfy viewers or advertisers. If television's new age is to give viewers what they want, attention must be paid to the evidence from Professor Andrew Ehrenburg of the London Business School that at least a third of the television audience chooses to watch "difficult" material.

And it is this act of choice for individual programmes that will be the viewing pattern of the future. Branding ITV as a channel of safe, popular entertainment will not in itself guarantee viewers.

The Times goes electronic page 11

Glenwyn Benson, editor of *Panorama*, fears the end to competition that ITV's action might bring

At the Edinburgh television festival, Michael Grade said that the BBC keeps us all honest. But in the history of British current affairs television, it was the stiff competition from ITV's *World In Action*, *This Week* and *Weekend World* that kept *Panorama* honest.

Now, with the demise of prime time current affairs seemingly imminent on ITV, *Panorama* is likely to be the only such show on a general channel, scheduled at a time when a broad swath of the population is watching television. Bereft of direct competition, *Panorama* will face the same danger as any protected body: how does it keep itself beholden to the viewer, and avoid sliding into a comfortable existence driven by its own producer interests?

Britain's current affairs television achieved its worldwide reputation through special conditions, when the Reithian philosophy of the BBC — buttressing low audience but worthy shows such as *Panorama* with popular ones — was mirrored by an ITV bound by stronger public service obligations than it is now. ITV's innovation and challenge meant *Panorama* had to work hard to keep up, and viewers went in a choice of excellence on both channels.

The pressure to chase ratings in ITV has already taken its toll, epitomised on the day after the French referendum on Maastricht. *Panorama* tackled the implications of the result, while *World In Action* had a programme about David Sullivan, owner of the *Sunday Sport*.

But the attempts to attract more viewers have been in no small part a recent article in the *Guardian*. Paul Jackson, Carlton's director of programmes, made it clear that ITV can no longer tolerate a situation where the audience built up by *The Bill* is reduced by 50 per cent by the arrival of *This Week* at 8.30pm. To ITV the hours of 6.30pm to 10.30pm are surely about ratings. The expectation is that

anyone who wants to watch current affairs on ITV will have to wait until 10.40pm.

By contrast, the commitment to keep *Panorama* in its prime-time slot has become almost a definition of the BBC's philosophy of "distinctiveness": the Big Idea that replace Reithianism. Before we see the full text of the BBC's response to the long-awaited green paper on its future, no one quite knows what distinctive means in programming terms, but in news and current affairs it has already arrived. The BBC already invests far more in the news than ITV does, editorially it deliberately pitches all its journalism upmarket of ITV, and it has promised to keep *Panorama* nailed to the mast of prime time. It is my view that the BBC could underscore its distinctiveness by adding new and different current affairs to its prime-time schedule.

But comfortable though this

ITV's innovation and challenge meant that *Panorama* had to work hard to keep up

may be for those who work on *Panorama*, how are we to be kept as honest as we were by ITV? It is a question of interest to the viewers who will soon inhabit a world of subscription and multi-channel television where the BBC, according to the recent leak in *Broadcast* magazine, does not think it can hold on to more than 30 per cent of the audience overall, and yet will be asking all viewers to pay a licence to support it.

Ironically, the possibility emerges that new competition could emerge for sound commercial reasons. Outside prime time, serious current affairs can perform a useful function for advertisers. In the

late evening, the audience has a high concentration of ABs, who are prepared to watch serious stuff before going to bed. The audience for *Panorama*, at 9.30pm, contains a much higher percentage of ABs than *World In Action*, at 8pm, or *This Week*.

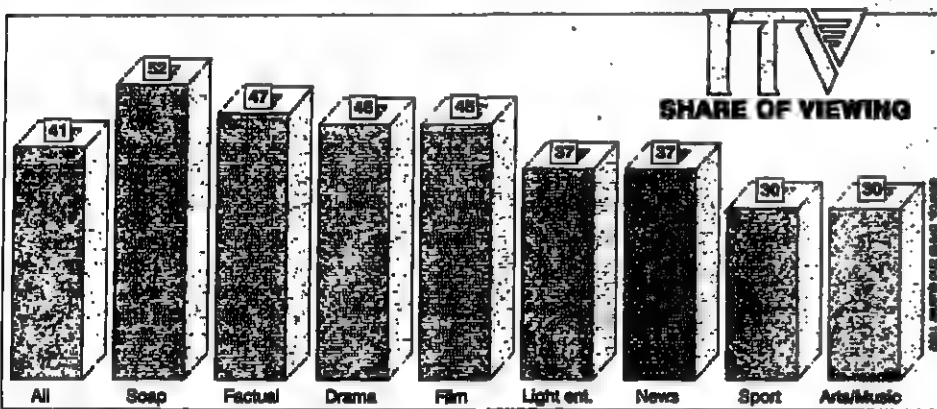
But if their main attraction to advertisers was the AB nature of the audience, ITV's current affairs shows need not fight shy of, for example, the row over Europe in favour of Mr Sullivan. And if they decided to return to the old benchmark of quality, *Panorama* would be forced to show that the quality it laid claim to was truly distinctive: its journalism would have to be more definitive and its presentation more accessible than that of its rivals.

One of the most frequent charges aimed at *Panorama* is that it pulls its punches, that it has been "tamed". However many times this is refuted by the BBC, by quoting examples of hard-hitting shows such as the recent *Panorama* on alleged British army involvement in UDA death squads, the charge is repeated and public concern builds up. How can consumers be reassured?

The BBC says it intends to reform its accountability, by codifying the responsibility and role of the board of management and the governors, and enabling the governors to monitor whether programmes are fulfilling their editorial purpose. But other voices in the green paper debate say the public can only be guaranteed independent judgment through a completely arm's-length regulator, closer to the model of Ofcom, which would be able to investigate charges such as "taming".

Whichever model the government goes for, programme makers might not be too happy at being at the mercy of a watchdog with sharp teeth. But if you want the nation to keep its eye on you, you have to let it do so.

Next week: the views of Paul Woolwich, editor of ITV's *This Week*



Soaps lead ITV's share of the television audience, but factual programming is a close second

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As the polytechnics become accustomed to their new status, John O'Leary forecasts new pressures in the academic world

The class of '92 will be pioneers in a brave new world of higher education. The university system has altered beyond recognition since this year's intake applied for places.

Times have been changing in higher education for a number of years, and students have filled campuses as never before. The polytechnics led the way, competing with one another for growth and finally drawing the universities into the process.

Now that the polytechnics have been given the reward of university status, hierarchies are being redrawn. Teaching methods are being updated and improved to cater for the extra students, course structures are changing and old certainties about university life are disappearing.

On many, perhaps most, campuses the student experience of the 1990s bears little resemblance to that of previous decades. Lectures are often crowded, seminars are larger and individual tutorials are rare. The personal touch, which has always characterised British university life, is being sacrificed to the pressing need to give more people higher education.

John Patten, the education secretary, acknowledged the dangers in a speech at the

inauguration of Portsmouth University this summer, but insisted that Britain is still "light years away" from the impersonal style of Continental universities. Overseas students still marvel, he said, at the amount of contact they have with professors and senior staff when they take British courses.

Lecturers and students' unions have yet to be convinced, but they recognise that the changes are permanent. The era of high-technology teaching and crowded timetables is upon them.

Nor are the changes all bad news. As well as offering more people the chance of higher education, the expansion has focused much-needed attention on teaching methods and encouraged more variety in the range of courses on offer.

Degree classifications have actually risen, to the point at which Nigel Forman, the higher education minister, felt moved to warn polytechnic directors, at their final conference in Edinburgh this month, to beware the sort of controversy that has engulfed schools.

The higher education



Studying the form: computer sciences at the new University of Westminster, which was formerly a polytechnic

world would be very short-sighted", he said. "If it did not look across at the public debate on GCSEs and A levels, and see the warning of what can happen if doubts arise about educational standards. Indeed, in some respects the higher education world is particularly at risk from such

criticism, since the available data suggests both a dramatic rise in student numbers and rising proportions of first-class and upper second-class degrees."

The universities, both new and old, are collaborating in a new system of quality assurance to calm such fears. The

new funding councils, which will allocate higher education budgets, are also monitoring the quality of courses, with the aid of people who have transferred from Her Majesty's Inspectorate. Although the independent scrutiny of the inspectors and the Council for National Academic Awards

will be lost, the traditional universities will never have experienced such attention.

The new scrutineers will have a wide brief, because the expansion of the university system has brought with it new kinds of course. Not only have distance education and part-time courses increased greatly,

but university education now also encompasses diplomas and certificates as well as degrees. Seven of the new universities have even been licensed by the Business and Technology Education Council to run their own sub-degree programmes without having to seek national approval.

Such initiatives are exactly what the government is seeking, by encouraging greater diversity in the revamped university system. Any notion that universities would all be equal once the old distinctions had been abolished could not be more wrong. Some of the old universities are facing the loss of their treasured research role, and several former polytechnics are hoping to establish themselves high up in the pecking order of primarily teaching institutions.

The beginnings of this shift were seen in this year's funding allocations for universities. In a deliberate attempt to steer institutions towards their strengths, Oxford and Cambridge were given almost 20 per cent more money for research, but received less in

real terms for teaching. Keele, at the other extreme, had its teaching budget increased by a third, but was given only 2.5 per cent more for research.

Mr Forman, in his Edinburgh speech, spelt out the specialisation message once more. "I am not saying that there should be no competition at all between universities," he said. "That would not be a healthy market for students. What I am suggesting is that there is little to be gained by institutions trying to compete in everything."

But there can be no certainty about the pay disputes that are looming throughout higher education. Clerical workers in the new universities and lecturers in both kinds of institution are threatening action over deadlocked pay claims. The class of '92 may have an early introduction to the practical side of industrial relations.

There may be trouble ahead, too, in student unions, if the government carries out its policy of making membership voluntary. Proposals are due before the end of the academic year, and the threat to both the national and local unions is such that stern resistance must be a certainty.

Life in the new higher education world is going to be different, but it should not be dull.

Managing time is a key skill



Hats off to high fashion at Westminster University

There are many conflicting demands on an undergraduate's time. Hobbies, societies, socialising — and for those in self-catering accommodation, shopping and cooking — all compete with academic work. Becoming a student offers the greatest opportunity to make new friends, and they are around 24 hours a day. All this comes as students become responsible for planning their time themselves, in most cases for the first time.

Life suddenly changes. Students are responsible for their own learning, and can take a considerable time to adjust when they find that nobody is chasing them for absence or work not delivered.

In some establishments, arts lectures are almost entirely voluntary. Some students go to only three or four a week.

Seminars and tutorials, on the other hand, are compulsory, and many students underestimate the time needed to read and prepare for discussion of topics in small groups. Science students, by contrast, may feel overwhelmed by a heavy timetable of lectures and practical classes, and suffer different pressures.

Time management comes more easily to some than others. Many students find difficulty in coming to terms with new study methods. Many are embarrassed to ask lecturers for help. To counter this problem, some institutions run classes in study skills. Anne Wyatt, the study skills counsellor at Exeter University, offers personal tuition. "I do not believe in groups," Mrs Wyatt says. "Each student has individual problems." She stresses that the majority make the adjustment, but that for those who do not even a few sessions can be beneficial.

In addition to skills — helping students to see where an essay has gone wrong, for instance, or how to take notes — she deals with time management itself: "I can help

them to arrive at an effective balance between work and leisure. They have to sort out the demands of a course realistically, and learn that when a lecturer says, 'You might like to follow this up', that does not mean 'Read every book on the list'. I see as many students who are working too hard as are doing too little."

Everybody needs to relax. One way of spending leisure time is in student clubs and societies, which are often subsidised by the students' union, and have annual subscriptions of £3 to £5. Most institutions offer freshers a good variety, ranging from sporting to political, from religious to creative.

Sheffield University lists more than 150. Sussex has a Green Society, paragliding, women's soccer and cognetics.

Societies can be time-consuming, however, and many students advise neophytes not to succumb to too many representations at the freshers' fair.

It is preferable to sign up for one or two only, as it is always possible to join others later. Societies and clubs can have hidden benefits. Eric Whittington, the careers adviser at the City of London Polytechnic, soon to have the title of university, points out that membership of one or two can be a help when compiling a CV in the final year.

"Any student whose career ideas lean towards the media can, for instance, gain valuable experience by working on the campus radio or magazine. I often say to would-be journalists, 'What experience have you had?', and they look at me blankly. If the college does not have such things, why not try hospital radio?"

"It is not just writing or on-air experience that can be useful. Selling advertising space for the union handbook or making contact with outside organisations can help you convince a future employer of your potential."

BERYL DIXON

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Bank on having to borrow

Even the most prudent student will find the grant is not enough

The four main sources of income for most students are grants, part-time earnings, loans and parental contributions, *Beryl Dixon writes*. Assuming that parents pay their share in full — and the National Union of Students estimates that about 30 per cent do not — the average income would be about £3,000 a year. Even with efficient budgeting, most are unable to live on that sum, unless it is to cover term-time expenditure only and parents supply food and accommodation during vacations.

Grants are means-tested, and the rates — £2,845 for students living and studying in London, £2,265 outside the capital and £1,795 for those living in the parental home — are reduced on a sliding scale calculated on the joint parental income. The amount by which the grant is reduced forms the "parental contribution".

Grants do not increase annually. They have remained frozen since 1990, the year in which the student loan scheme was introduced. On the other hand, the total that may be borrowed under the student loan scheme is reviewed annually, and loans are not subject to a means test.

The maximum amount for a full year in London is £830 and for a final year £605. Outside London, the figures are £715 and £525 respectively, and for students living at home £570 and £415. The final-year rate is lower as it excludes that year's summer vacation.

Students sign a contract with the Student Loans Company, which arranges for application forms to be issued at their places of study. Repayment is deferred until the April after graduation, and is then made in monthly instalments over a maximum of five years, or seven if the course lasted for five years or more. Interest is calculated every year, using the retail price index. The rate for the year beginning this September is

3.9 per cent. However, anyone whose income is less than 85 per cent of national average earnings may defer payments for a year at a time.

On average, students end their courses £1,000 in debt, so some form of borrowing is almost essential.

It is equally important to get to know one's bank manager or, in most cases, student adviser. All the banks offer students free overdraft facilities up to a certain figure. After that, even preferential rates for agreed overdrafts may be between 11 and 16 per cent.

All the banks and some building societies are out to woo students. They are, after all, potential customers for life. Most of them offer free overdraft facilities of £300-£400 for the whole course, but this must be checked, as one or two offer it only during the first year. Some offer credit cards with no annual charge, but the National Union of Students says these are much less popular with students now than during the consumer boom.

Then comes a range of entitlements to open an account, which differ from bank to bank. This year's include reduced-price driving lessons, free rail cards and £20 in cash and vouchers to be spent in selected shops. They are worth having but not at the expense of better services. Students should check overdraft limits, the nearness of branches, including post offices, and the availability of cash dispensers, before falling for a one-off £20 gift.

The initial reluctance to take out student loans seems to have decreased. The loans company says 260,000 students applied last year. Many did so towards the end of the year.

Only one application may be made each year, and the closing date is July 31. This year's freshers should apply earlier in the year and let the money earn interest. Why not take advantage of a sum that could be sitting in a savings account?

Student loans are not subject to a means test

Beryl Dixon offers those about to go to college some tips for financial survival on a slim budget

No need to starve if you watch the pennies



Bargains for both work and leisure: many campuses have their own bars and bookshops (such as this at Queen Mary and Westfield College)



Students must learn to budget if they want to avoid disaster. There are plenty of horror stories about those who blew the entire term's grant cheque in three weeks.

"First, it is important to assess how much is required for survival, and only then consider what remains for extras. It is also worth noting that the first term is likely to be the most expensive, with books and subscriptions to pay. But the summer term can also be expensive for those who have to pay rent through the long holiday break."

Students soon learn to economise by buying second-hand books and clothes, making use of student discounts and subsidies, and attending student-organised discos and other entertainments. And they soon pick up ideas for making savings which they pass on to others.

Andrew Clarke, a recent graduate of Bristol University, offers the following tips:

- Take a bike. He saved two 40p journeys a day by cycling three miles each way.
- Get a student rail or coach card at the beginning of term, when there are often special deals.
- Find shops offering student discounts. Your union can give you a list, and they range from food shops to clothes shops and hairdressers.
- Avoid refectories. You can make a much cheaper packed lunch.
- Drink at the union bar. It is about 30 per cent cheaper.
- Buy food and housekeeping essentials in bulk.

Mr Clarke says that he and the friends sharing a house with him in their final year could have economised further by cooking together, but chose not to do so. However, they did club together to buy a washing-machine, saving on frequent laundrette bills. Further savings were made by turning on the heating and hot water only when absolutely necessary.

Margaret Winnett, the mother of two student sons, offers the following advice to parents: "It was reassuring for

us to be able to pay our eldest son's hall bill directly for food and accommodation. He had a bed to sleep on and food to eat from Monday to Friday. Money mismanagement inevitably meant he starved at weekends."

She adds: "Give them a supply of phonecards and stamped, addressed envelopes, in the hope that they might use them. Our requests to phone home, though, had less success than those to ET."

One essential item in any student's budget must be insurance. The best advice is to leave very expensive items at home, but even so, students are bound to take possessions of considerable value with them, and these need to be protected.

Policy costs vary according to the area and type of accommodation. Companies assess risk using postcodes. Unfortunately, students in flats and houses often live in high-risk areas, where rates are higher.

Students are advised to shop around for the best insurance quotation, but they will find that several companies have actually pulled out of the student market because of heavy losses.

Most students are insured with Endsleigh Insurance Services, which arranges private accommodation cover for £33 to £99, depending on the area. £26 for those living in hall anywhere in the country, or much less if students are at institutions which arrange block policies. The London School of Economics, for example, adds £10 to its hall fees and covers every student auto-

Students soon learn to economise by buying second-hand books and clothes and making use of student discounts

matically through an Endsleigh block policy. All policies should be checked to see whether they include bicycles and other high-value items.

This is how three students managed last year. Figures are for term-time expenditures only.

Helen Gurn, a first-year student at University College, Aberystwyth, had a total income, including her grant, her parents' contribution and her part-time earnings, of £2,600. She had expenditure of £1,200 on accommodation in college, where no meals were provided; £700 on food; and £120 on books. She had three return journeys between home and university, which cost her £90, but did not need to spend anything on daily travel to and from her college. Social travel

cost £25, while she spent £200 on entertainment and miscellaneous outlays, and £100 on clothes. Her total expenditure was £2,435.

Andrew Clarke was in his third year last year at Bristol University. His total income, which came from the same three sources as Miss Gurn's, was £4,025. He spent £1,430 on renting a room in a shared house for 52 weeks; £1,000 on food and housekeeping; £240 on electricity, the telephone and water; and £20 on books. He, too, had three return journeys between home and university, which cost £30, and spent nothing on daily travel. Social travel came to £50, entertainment and miscellaneous outlays to £900, and clothes £200. His total expenditure was £3,870.

Polly Mason was a second-year student at Breton Hall College, Wakefield. She had a total income of £2,874, again from the same three sources. She spent £864 on rent, and £132 on additional rent as a retainer for the summer vacation. Gas, electricity and the telephone took £200; food £600; and books £50. She spent £340 on petrol, £344 on car tax, insurance and an MOT test. Entertainment and miscellaneous outlays came to £230, and clothes cost £10. Her total expenditure was £2,820.

It is immediately apparent that a student has more chance of keeping his or her head above water financially if no return daily journeys are necessary between accommodation and college. Furthermore, none of the three was living in London, where costs are higher.

Miss Mason, whose terms lasted 34 weeks in all, rather than the usual 30, says: "I am surprised at how well I've managed to survive financially, but I think my lucky stars that the cost of living is so low in Wakefield."

Eat cheaply but eat well

Learning to cook even simple meals is a vital skill when money is tight

Health education has made young people more aware of what constitutes a healthy diet than the older generation, *Beryl Dixon writes*. However, faced with limited resources and frequently giving food a low priority, they are liable to fall into the trap of surviving on a mixture of junk and fast food — unless they can cook.

Students are not going to go in for elaborate and time-consuming recipes. Nor will they have vast amounts of cooking equipment. Storage space may be at a premium, and they may be fighting for their turn to use communal cookers. What they need, therefore, is some simple knowledge of cookery and a selection of nutritious recipes that can be prepared with the minimum of fuss.

Meals can be prepared quickly, and although it is often cheaper to use fresh ingredients, tins and packets should not be despised. Anyone with two saucepans and a can-opener can rustle up a nutritious meal from a tin of tuna, canned tomatoes, herbs and pasta in 15 minutes.

Pasta and rice are two cheap, filling student standbys which can accompany a variety of meals of differing degrees of sophistication. So can



Kitchen wisdom: Polly (left) and Tamsin Mason seek out end-of-day bargains

jacket potatoes, if time permits or the hall kitchen has a microwave. Many students say that their best going-away present was an electric sandwich-maker, which provides a filling snack in minutes.

Many house-sharing students cook together, which means that they can take full advantage of bulk buying. Tamsin Mason, a third-year student at King Alfred College, shares a house in Winchester, where living expenses are quite high. She and her friends have their own ways of making ends meet. They make bulk purchases of supermarkets' own-brand goods and buy fresh produce as often as possible, having learnt to patronise the open-air market

towards the end of the day when traders reduce prices sharply. Moreover, Miss Mason is a vegetarian, and maintains that this helps. "You can cook a cheap veggie chilli in 15 minutes," she says.

Students who already know how to cook have a head start. Some are lucky enough to have learnt at home or to have attended a school — which taught them — such as Marlborough School in Stroud, where sixth-formers may sign up for an optional course in cookery taught by Olivia Watson, a science teacher. "We start with basics such as cooking methods and buying ingredients," she says, "then do simple recipes, moving on to main dishes. I aim to

teach them to cook a decent meal at half the cost of buying one, and to be able to prepare food in even the most cramped kitchen."

Is it too late for all that? There are two excellent books which could make good Christmas presents. A generation learned to cook in the 1960s from Katharine Whitehorn's *Cooking in a Bedsitter* (still available, Penguin, £4.99). More recent on the scene is *Grub on a Grant* by Cas Clarke (Headline Publishing, also £4.99). Neither assumes any previous knowledge. Both contain quick, healthy and cheap recipes, plus lists of essential store-cupboard ingredients and necessary utensils.

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MANAGEMENT

The forgotten children

Special funds to care for young refugees are lacking, writes Nicky Willmore

Publicans and retired headmasters crossing Europe in their well-meaning way to save children from the former Yugoslavia have given local authorities an attack of the jitters. At worst, councils fear a repeat of summer 1990, when the unexpected arrival in London of 200 unaccompanied Eritrean children exposed for the first time a yawning gap in official policy.

Many councils could not cope. All still say the absence of policy and resources compromises their ability to comply with both UK law and United Nations conventions in caring for refugee children.

Immigration records suggest about 250 unaccompanied refugee children are in the UK today, mostly from the Horn of Africa. The numbers are minute but the needs of the children who make it to the UK alone are specific and expensive.

The children are confused when they have their first brush with immigration officials. "Many have had traumatic experiences involving seeing relatives killed or tortured or have themselves experienced abuse," says Terry Bamford, the social services director at Kensington and Chelsea in west London. "The care provided must take account of these experiences as well as their health, cultural, religious and linguistic needs."

Hillingdon, home to Heathrow and responsible as the "parish of origin" for many unaccompanied children arriving, has provided services to 111 refugee children in the past two years and has 36 on its books now. The annual bill is £995,810, the amount by which the council's budget exceeded its statutory limit this year.



Looking lost in a foreign land: children who have fled from Somalia share a room in Haringey, north London

Kensington and Chelsea, on a direct tube line from Heathrow, puts the cost of caring for 28 Eritrean children at £500,000, and Haringey estimates care and support costs are £40,000 per child. Yet despite a protracted and united campaign, the 25 London authorities and a few shire counties that care for refugee children have failed to convince the government of the need for a specific grant.

Although few shirk their responsibilities, none can provide care lightly. Disputes between councils about who is immediately responsible for specific children have occasionally ended in the courts, as in the case of the London boroughs of Islington and Hounslow. One child flew four times between London and Northern Ireland before a decision was made.

In addition, government guidance on policy and best practice has been two years in the drafting and is still not published. Ros Finlay, the Refugee Council's social services adviser, says this has delayed improvements to the limited range of skills, knowledge and resources available for the children's care needs.

The Refugee Council has persistently argued that a central project is vital to complete the work of councils. "A prime task of the project would be to strengthen existing refugee community groups, who are best placed to

care for the children, as well as their links with local authorities," Ms Finlay says. The project would prevent a repeat of the swamping of resources by the influx of Eritrean children and would solve councils' everyday difficulties in establishing links with community groups.

These difficulties, particularly acute if there is no established refugee community in the area, means children often receive inadequate care. Mike Taylor, Hillingdon's social services director, admits to temporary anomalies — for example, where a Tamil child is cared for by a Somali adult, or where Ethiopian children live alongside Eritreans.

Of 242 children surveyed by the Refugee Council, 70 had to wait up to three months before a local authority responded and at least 50 were moved more than three times

in their first three months. At least 50 children were placed where they had no contact with people from their cultural or linguistic background, jeopardising their ability to take a place in their community in the UK or at home and the effectiveness of any eventual family reunion.

Brian Jones, the social services assistant secretary at the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, says: "Today's ease of transport and communications means that the problems of unaccompanied children arriving here as refugees will not go away."

Mr Taylor says he cannot spend £1 million a year on refugee children without hurting other services. "Other than the odd expression of concern that child refugees are being brought in, the silence of government departments on this is deafening," he says.

Good charities begin with training

Who controls Britain's 180,000 charities? And is this done effectively? The question is worth asking — and as a matter of urgency — because the voluntary sector is playing an ever more critical role in society.

During the 1960s, many people believed that charities would become marginal, even irrelevant, by provision of state services. Instead, the opposite has happened: there has been an ideological shift away from state intervention.

The resources charities control are greater than most people realise. The turnover of the voluntary sector is at present £17 billion, which is 3 per cent of the gross national product and more than the turnover of the agricultural sector.

In law, the charities are controlled by the million or so people who serve as voluntary trustees; yet there is evidence that they lack the training and preparation to carry out their responsibilities effectively.

According to today's report by the National Council for Voluntary Organisations, two-thirds of all trustees in England and Wales are unaware that they are trustees at all; only between a third and a half of them receive information about their organisation's role and their responsibilities as trustees; only a fifth receive proper induction to charity work and less than a sixth are given training directly related to their work.

The dangers of letting this continue are considerable. Crises in the voluntary sector, such as the recent bankruptcy of War on Want, bring the governance of charities increasingly into the public eye.

As in the private sector, the changing relationship between a charity's executive managers and the board is a key. Large and medium-sized charities have always relied on paid staff, but during the past decade

that trustees can be hoodwinked, or that some professional managers are accused of "capturing" organisations they are paid to manage. The solution is fairly clear. In the face of such professionalism, trustees need to know their legal and managerial responsibilities vis-à-vis the paid staff. Interference by the trustees with day-to-day operations or, on the other hand an abdication of responsibility can undermine the running of any charity.

Training in the widest sense — including all forms of advice and support — is needed if trustees are to retain control of an organisation's affairs. If they do not keep abreast of the new managerial ethos and supervise the work of paid staff, the mission of the organisation can be all too easily subverted.

A final point is worth making. The report suggests that trusteeship is, in the main, a middle-class preserve. But for a much wider section of the population, trusteeship may be an important form of active citizenship. Training should take account of this and help to increase the pool of talent available to charities, giving genuinely equal opportunities.

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These managers are responsible for large budgets, sometimes more than £50 million annually. They speak the language of the business school and have their own career agendas. Yet they are accountable to part-time unpaid trustees with widely varying abilities and little or no preparation for the work. Small wonder

managerialism has penetrated the sector.

The author is the chairman of the Royal National Institute for the Deaf and the working party responsible for the report, "On Trust: Increasing the Effectiveness of Charity Trustees and Management Committees", published today by the National Council for Voluntary Organisations, Regent's Wharf, 8 All Saints Street, London N1 9RL, at £3.95, including postage and packing.

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Don't tell the town hall

Councils must not use the new local tax to pry into personal affairs or to ask for irrelevant information

Data protection laws had been on the statute book for half a decade before the community charge, better known as poll tax, forced their first test in the courts. Now the arrival of the council tax has again raised the issue of what councils are entitled to know about their taxpayers.

Under the rates system, local authorities needed to know little more than the address of a property, the name of its occupier and its rateable value. Nobody dreamed of asking ratepayers personal questions, unless of course they applied for a rebate.

The poll tax, levied personally on 37 million adults in England alone, required councils to compile a computerised register of everybody aged over 16 in their areas.

For the first time, every adult had to provide personal details to the local council. Even before the first poll tax bills went out in March 1990, the Data Protection Registrar had warned councils about the questions they were asking.

Before the year was out, the Data Protection Tribunal had been convened for its first sitting to deal with the problems caused by the poll tax.

Council for the Data Protection Registrar told the hearing that more than a quarter of the 403 charging authorities in England had asked questions on subjects they were not entitled to know about.

By the time the case came to court in September, only 14 of the 140 councils which had asked questions later ruled "irrelevant and excessive" by the tribunal remained obdurate. However, the damage had been done.

Public suspicions about the already unpopular poll tax registers were deepened by the disclosure that councils had been asking householders what type of home they occupied. Some had even asked about marital status.

The councils that asked about property type said they needed to know in order to discover which houses had been converted into flats. The tribunal disagreed, and ordered the information to be struck from the register.

Aware of the harm that had been done to the poll tax

by the keeping of registers, ministers hurried to assure the public that the new council tax, which comes into operation on April 1 next year, would require nothing of the kind.

Heated parliamentary exchanges followed, in which Labour MPs said that lists of those liable to pay the council tax and the collection of income details from those eligible for rebates would lead to the keeping of registers in all but name.

The Opposition complained that, far from clarifying the issue, the government's assertion that councils will not need to keep registers only clouded matters further.

The poll tax legislation gave a clear power to collect and hold certain types of information, but local authorities will have to rely on their general powers for collecting data about householders for the new council tax.

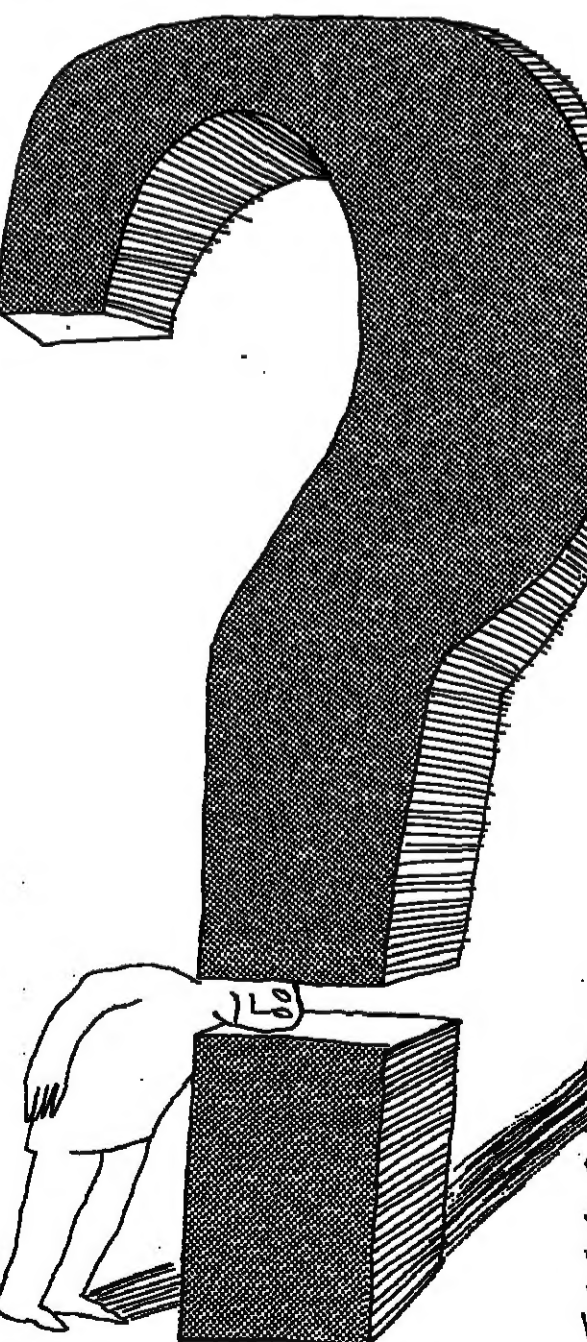
Least controversial will be the so-called banding lists. These will show which of the eight council tax bands each property has been placed in.

The lists have been drawn up by the Inland Revenue valuation office, and will be available for inspection at town halls around Christmas time. They show no more than the address of each property and the band to which it is allocated. Councils will need to add the name of the person liable to pay the tax, for bills can no longer legally be addressed to "the occupier".

Assessing who is the person liable may require some complex questioning, and discounts and rebates will demand the keeping of detailed information about income, disability and entitlement to state benefits.

Every person living alone will also have to be listed as such to enable computerised billing systems to award the automatic 25 per cent discount to which they are entitled.

Nick Platten, the compliance officer to the Data Protection Registrar, told a recent seminar that his office wants to "iron out problems in advance" by talking to councils. "The intention is that there will be no repeat of the prosecutions and legal notices



that came about with the introduction of the community charge," he said.

To avoid trouble, councils should bear several basic principles in mind. First, data should be obtained fairly and individuals should not be misled about the purpose of any question.

Second, data should be relevant and the amount of information sought should be adequate for the purpose but not excessive.

Finally, it should be accurate and up to date. Mr Platten added a warning to councils that they risk criminal prosecution if they do not add the administration of the new tax to their entries on the central

data protection register. He was upbeat about the risks of councils falling foul of the law again, but Jeff Pipe, the assistant city treasurer in Birmingham, offered a word of caution. Addressing the same gathering, Mr Pipe said the new tax would involve obtaining personal information about "a substantial proportion of the population". He said that, although the council tax regulations give councils powers to use information already in their possession in administering the new tax, the law gives them "no blank cheque to ignore the Data Protection Act".

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Closing date: 9th October 1992.

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Interviews to be held on 28th and 29th October 1992.

● *The author is features production editor of The Times*

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queen for a fork

are not on the agenda, adding
bell, 48, Greg Morgan, 47,
and Mike Oxade, 47. Knight

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BBC1

- 6.00 Cee-fax (56875) 6.30 Breakfast News (7840455)
9.05 Perfect Strangers. American comedy series starring Mark Linn-Baker and Bronson Pinchot (4). (Cee-fax) (5681610)
9.30 Labour Party Conference 92. Donald MacCormick, Vivian White and Iain MacWhirter present live coverage of the proceedings on the second day of the conference (51610)
10.00 News, regional news and weather (146875) 10.05 Playdays (5) (5958813) 10.25 Jimbo and the Jet Set (5) (4149662)
10.35 Labour Party Conference 92. Further live coverage. Includes News (Cee-fax) and weather at 11.00 and 12.00 (82774287) 12.55 Regional News and weather (18912946)
1.00 One O'Clock News. (Cee-fax) Weather (13981)
1.30 Neighbours. (Cee-fax) (43684097) 1.50 Going for Gold presented by Henry Kelly. (Cee-fax) (43688813)
2.15 Film: Buddies (1983) starring Colin Fries and Harold Hopkins. Rough-and-tumble comedy about two Australian gem prospectors who find themselves having to do battle with a big mining company who want to take over their claim. Directed by Arch Nicholson (251392)
3.50 Opposites Attract. Nature series presented by Derek Griffiths (5) (8503349) 4.00 Funnybones. A new cartoon series featuring three comical skeletons. With the voice of Griff Rhys Jones (5) (6078707) 4.05 Spaceways. The first of a new sci-fi series (5697894) 4.20 The Chipmunks. Cartoon (4) 4.35 Hardbeat. Innovative ideas to better picture making. (Cee-fax) (5) (8282368)
5.00 Newsround (3216788) 5.10 The Village by the Sea. Episode three of a six-part drama about life in an Indian fishing village. (Cee-fax) (3965320)
5.35 Neighbours (5). (Cee-fax) (5) (707504)
6.00 Six O'Clock News with Peter Sissons and Anna Ford. (Cee-fax) Weather (165)
6.30 Regional News Magazines (417). Northern Ireland: Neighbours 7.00 Telly Addicts. Television trivia quiz (5) (3184)
7.30 Eastenders. (Cee-fax) (5) (829)
8.00 Citizen Smith. Classic comedy from John Sullivan starring Robert Lindsay as Wolfe, Tooting's very own urban guerrilla, this week having to postpone his revolution when Speed makes a reappearance on his patch (5). (Cee-fax) (9504)
8.30 2 Point 4 Children. Andrew Marshall's domestic comedy starring Belinda Lang and Gary Olsen. (Cee-fax) (5) (8639)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Marylen Lewis. (Cee-fax) Regional news and weather (8233)
9.30 Chivies. Hard-hitting drama by Lynda La Plante following the fortunes of a group of soldiers returning to civilian life. (Cee-fax) (5) (238184)
10.25 Omnibus: The Piero Trail.
● CHOICE: This fascinating documentary, marking the 500th anniversary of the death of Italy's Piero della Francesca, makes full use of computer technology to piece together a startling portrait of the elusive Renaissance painter. Despite supposedly being the son of a farmer, Piero somehow amassed the mathematical know-how of a learned gentleman. Thus a painting such as his Flagellation of Christ can be constructed as a three-dimensional model following the artist's precise lines and logic. Professor B.A.R. Carter makes the most impact as he dissects still more paintings according to their geometrical substructures finding hidden symbolism along the way, but there are also keen observations from experts and artists such as Sir John Pope-Hennessy and Tom Phillips. (Cee-fax) (531639) Wales: Sportsnight Wales 10.55 Omnibus



Gunfighter: John Wayne makes a parting shot (11.30pm)

- 11.30 Film: The Shootist (1976) starring John Wayne. In his last film, Lauren Bacall and James Stewart. A poignant western about a former gunfighter, now suffering from cancer, who wants to spend his last days in peace. Unfortunately he is a target for all the young guns who want to make a name for themselves. Directed by Don Siegel. (Cee-fax) (707707). Wales: 12.00-1.35 The Shootist
1.05am Weather (812612). Ends at 1.10
2.15 BBC Select: Executive Business Club. Scrambled (153547). Ends at 3.15

BBC2

- 8.00 Breakfast News (9710962)
8.15 Writers' Houses. P.J. Kavanagh visits the Olney, Buckinghamshire, home of the 18th-century poet William Cowper (5) (9733813) 8.30 Play Better Golf. Peter Allis with advice on escaping from difficult lies (5) (10829)
9.00 Daytime on Two. Educational programmes
2.00 News and weather (3477881) followed by You and Me (5) (40327504)
2.15 Labour Party Conference 92. Coverage continues with John Smith's first address to Conference as leader of the party. Includes News (Cee-fax) and weather at 3.00 and 3.50 (85453875)
5.30 Film 52 with Barry Norman. A new series of reviews of Carry On. Columbus, City of Joy and Bitter Moon. Plus a location report from Kenneth Branagh's third film as director, Peter's Friends (5) (894)
6.00 Film: The Highwaymen (1973) starring Ingrid Bergman. The story of a brother and sister, bored with their suburban lifestyle who decide to escape to New York where, in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, they become obsessed by a marble statue of an angel and decide to seek out the donor who turns out to be a rich, elderly recluse. Directed by Felder Cook (52120078)
7.45 Assignment: Oh Canada! Oh Quebec! (5)
● CHOICE: The Montreal-born novelist Marcelle Richier reports on the importance of the French and English-speaking populations of Quebec, not to mention the Mohawks and Cree. As the author of *Oh Canada! Oh Quebec! Requiem for a Divided Country*, a humorous book attacking Canadian separatism, you would expect him to have an eye for the absurd and he certainly makes the most of the peculiarities of the current language laws. Commercial placards and road signs are now in French by law. It is odd indeed to consider how in France the stop sign says "Stop!" while in Quebec they say "Arrêt!" Richier's viewpoint is unashamedly biased but not wholly flippant. Events in Yugoslavia have shown just how serious tribal quarrels can be. (643900)
8.30 Floyd On Spain. Keith Floyd concludes his gastronomic tour of Spain by sampling food in La Mancha and Madrid. (Cee-fax) (9981)
9.00 The Mary Whitehouse Experience. Off-beat comedy, a spin-off from the radio series. Starring David Baddiel, Hugh Dennis, Rob Newman and Steve Punt (5) (6875)



Death and the cartoonist: Gerald Scarfe fantasizes (9.30pm)

- 9.30 Scarfe in Paradise.
● CHOICE: The cynical cartoonist Gerald Scarfe is at his best in this quirky programme on death and what happens afterwards, a follow-up to his investigations on art and sex. The idea that absolutely nothing happens, is, of course, glossed over in order for Scarfe to explore more interesting options such as heaven, hell and reincarnation as well as copy-outs such as immortality or, failing that, body freezing. Although his report is peppered with entertaining fantasy sequences, there are also interviews with all manner of real people with very different but equally fervent views on what's going to befall them. Scarfe himself remains worried by his own uncertainty. Then again, if he really believed his fear that "hell is worse than anything we can imagine", he might not be able to get through life, let alone death. (Cee-fax) (580184)
10.10 The Works: Inside the Box. Last in the series celebrating the importance of engineering. (Cee-fax) (624217)
10.30 Newsnight with Peter Snow (876785)
11.15 The Late Show. Arts and media magazine (5) (763900)
11.55 Weather (577726)
12.00 Open University: Motion — Newton's Laws (60902). Ends at 12.30am

ITV

- 6.00 TV-am (5263875)
9.25 Win, Lose or Draw. Celebrity game show hosted by Danny Baker (5687894) 9.55 Thames News (737523)
10.00 The Times ... The Place ... Topical discussion series (7774558)
10.40 This Morning. Magazine series presented by Judy Finnigan and Richard Madeley. Today's edition includes items on hair and beauty, family finance and women who thrive on challenge. Plus, another episode of the twice-weekly news. With national and international news at 10.55 and regional news at 11.55 followed by national weather (9337165)
12.10 Playbox. Early-learning series (5) (5471542)
12.30 Lunchtime News (Oracle) Weather (2449271) 1.05 Thames News (5761184)
1.15 Home and Away. Australian family drama series. (Oracle) (573875) 1.45 A Country Practice. Medical drama series set in the Australian outback. (5) (572146)
2.15 Mavis Catches Up With ... Mavis Nicholson talks to comedienne Dawn French (597455) 2.45 Families. Soap linking the north of England with Australia (5) (543876)
3.10 Football. Live coverage of the Uefa cup first round, second leg match between Torpedo Moscow and Manchester United. The first leg at Old Trafford ended goalless (34492558)
5.10 Blockbusters. General knowledge quiz game for teenagers, presented by Bob Hooper (9520981)
5.40 Early Evening News. (Oracle) Weather (325621)
6.00 News and Weather (5). (Oracle) (233)
6.30 Thames News (513)
7.00 Emmerdale. Drama serial set in the Yorkshire Dales. (Oracle) (8252)
7.30 Football. Highlights of this afternoon's Uefa cup first round, second leg match in Moscow between Torpedo Moscow and Manchester United (487)
8.00 The Bill. Starring the Glaswegian. A low-key undercover operation against drug dealers in a local estate pub takes an unpleasant turn. (Oracle) (7900)
8.30 Men Behaving Badly. Simon Nye's comedy series about two bachelor flat-mates and their attempts to attract the opposite sex. Starring Martin Clunes and Neil Morrissey with Leslie Ash and Caroline Quentin as their long-suffering upstairs neighbours. (Oracle) (5707)
9.00 Boom. Michael Elphick stars as the Midlands private detective this week being drawn into danger by a terrified woman. (Cee-fax) (5) (6504)
10.00 News at Ten. (Oracle) (5) Weather (39900) 10.30 Thames News (470455)

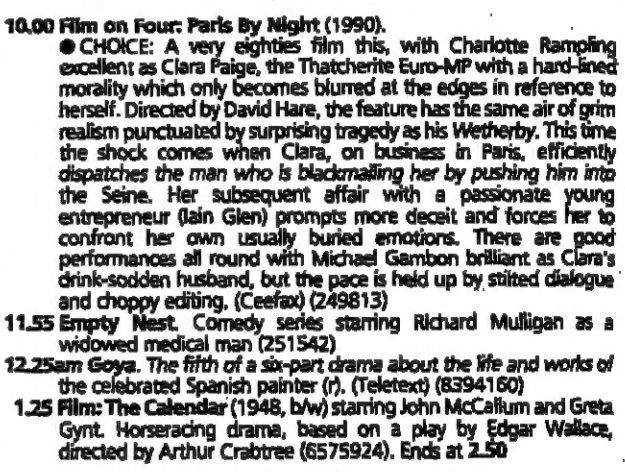


Passion and Deceit: Charlotte Rampling, Iain Glen (10.00pm)

- 10.40 Before Columbus: Rebellion. The last in the documentary series written and presented by Michael Wood on the history of the Indian people of the Americas. (Cee-fax) (5) (627823)
11.40 Prisoner: Call Block H. Drama serial set in an Australian women's detention centre (189692)
12.30am Video View presented by Mariella Frostrup. The latest releases reviewed (16634)
1.30 The Equalizer. McCall helps a diplomat's wife to recover her kidnapped son. Starring Edward Woodward, Lisa Eichhorn and Macaulay Culkin (5) (94721)
2.30 Dances with Wolves. A discussion on how couples can have a more sexual and loving relationship (1748498)
3.30 60 Minutes. American news magazine (2546905)
4.10 The Whiteboard Round the World Race. Yachting (7818905)
5.10 Short Story Theatre: Mark and Donny. The story of two young car thieves (3883672)
5.30 ITN Morning News (64547). Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 Cartoons (56813)
7.00 The Big Breakfast presented by Chris Evans and Gaby Roslin (55564)
8.00 You Bet Your Life. American quiz show (5) (23349)
9.30 Profiles of Nature. Wildlife photographer Bristol Foster captures the life of the rarely-seen red-throated loon (56813)
12.30 Sesame Street. Entertaining early-learning series (5) (75455)
1.30 Take 5. For younger viewers (54707)
2.00 Mister Rossi On the Beach. Animation (59059788)
2.15 The Labour Party Conference. Live coverage of John Smith's first address to Conference as party leader (1654233)
3.30 Flying Hair. Animation by Poland's Piotr Dumala (4081097)
3.40 The Three Stooges in Gen of a Jam (569154)
4.00 A Houseful of Plants. Indoor gardening series, presented by Rosella Benjamin and Michael Jordan (5). (Teletext) (726)
4.30 Fifteen to One. General knowledge knock-out quiz (5) (610)
5.00 Crawshaw Paints on Holiday. Alwyn Crawshaw paints, trains, trams and the market square of Solfer in Majorca (9558)
5.30 If Wishes Were Horses. Series following a group of children of mixed ability learning to ride (5) (962)
6.00 Desmond's. Comedy series set in a Peckham barber's. Starring Norman Beaton (5). (Teletext) (5) (873)
6.30 Roseanne. Wise-cracking blonde comic starring Roseanne Arnold and John Goodman (5). (Teletext) (455)
7.00 Channel 4 News. (Teletext) Weather (8962)
8.00 Blame It on the Sadger. Chris Kelly narrates Maurice Tibbles's acclaimed film about Britain's best-known yet least seen mammal. (Teletext) (5542)
8.30 Check Out 92. The consumer affairs programme examines this week the important question of whether Britain's beer drinkers are getting a fair deal from the brewers (5) (345)
9.00 Top Autumns: Andy Goldsworthy. A look at the work of the sculptor who uses leaves, sticks and rocks to capture the rhythms of time and place (5) (4146)



Passion and Deceit: Charlotte Rampling, Iain Glen (10.00pm)

- 10.00 Film on Four: Paris by Night (1990).
● CHOICE: A very elegant film this, with Charlotte Rampling as Clara Fajse, the Thackeray Sun-Art with a hard-line morality which only becomes blurred at the edges in reference to herself. Directed by David Hare, the feature has the same air of grim realism punctuated by surprising tragedy as his Wetherby. This time the shock comes when Clara, on business in Paris, efficiently dispatches the man who is blackmailing her by pushing him into the Seine. Her subsequent affair with a passionate young entrepreneur (Iain Glen) prompts more death and forces her to confront her own usually buried emotions. There are good performances all round with Michael Gambon brilliant as Clara's drink-soaked husband, but the pace is held up by stilted dialogue and choppy editing. (Cee-fax) (249813)
11.55 Empty Nest. Comedy series starring Richard Mulligan as a widowed medical man (251542)
12.25am Goya. The fifth of a six-part drama about the life and works of the celebrated Spanish painter (5). (Teletext) (8394160)
1.25 Film: The Calendar (1948, b/w) starring John McCallum and Greta Gynt. Horsing around, based on a play by Edgar Wallace, directed by Arthur Crabtree (655924). Ends at 2.50

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- SKY ONE**
● Via the Astra and Mariposa satellites
6.00am The 92nd Street (56862226) 8.00 My Peppermint (5686227) 8.35 Playhouse (5686229) 9.10 The Pyramid Game (73882) 10.00 Let's Make a Deal (56813) 10.30 The Bold and the Beautiful (75455) 11.00 The Young and the Restless (51071) 12.00 The Bold and the Beautiful (51071) 12.30 The Bold and the Beautiful (51071) 1.00pm E Street (55523) 1.30 Geraldine (57788) 2.30 Another World (255159) 3.15 The Bold and the Beautiful (51071) 3.45 The Bold and the Beautiful (51071) 4.00 Facts of Life (7392) 5.30 Different Strokes (4707) 6.00 Bobbly (4332) 6.30 The Bold and the Beautiful (51071) 7.00 The Bold and the Beautiful (51071) 7.30 The Bold and the Beautiful (51071) 8.00 The Bold and the Beautiful (51071) 8.30 The Bold and the Beautiful (51071) 9.00 The Bold and the Beautiful (51071) 9.30 The Bold and the Beautiful (51071) 10.00 The Bold and the Beautiful (51071) 10.30 The Bold and the Beautiful (51071) 11.00 The Bold and the Beautiful (51071) 11.30 The Bold and the Beautiful (51071) 12.00 The 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